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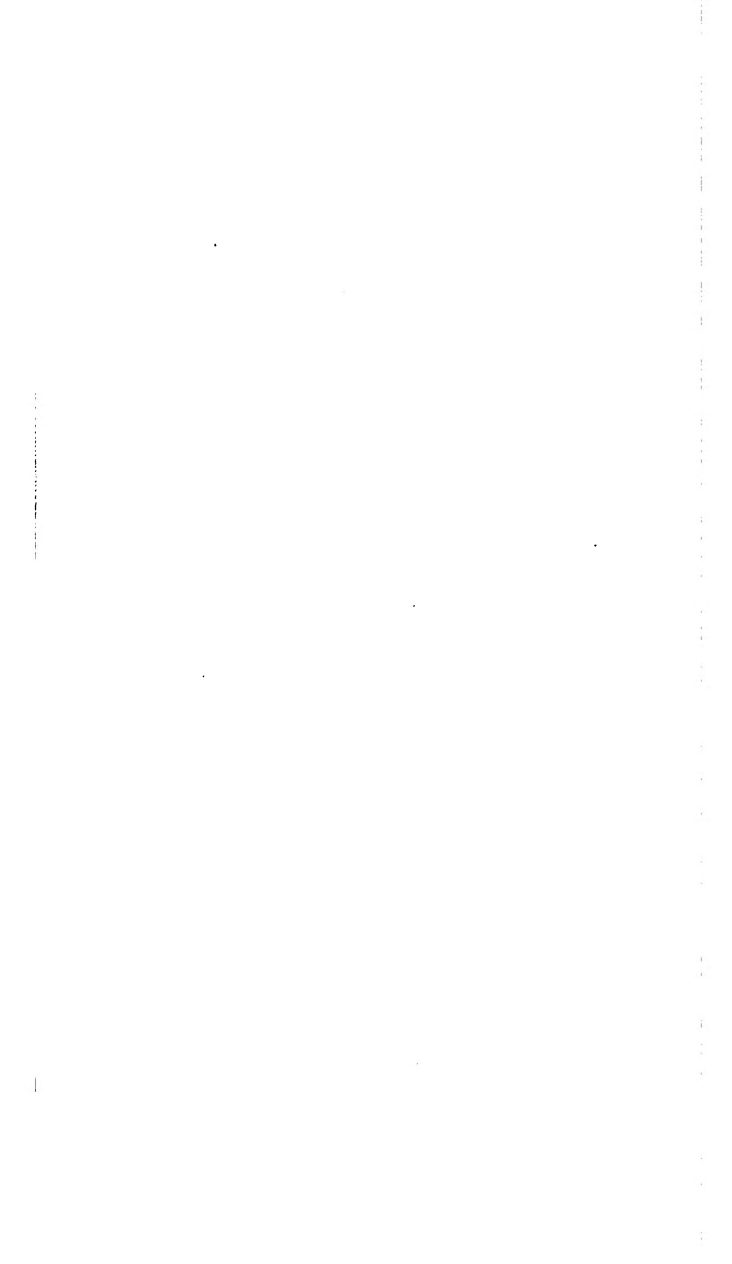
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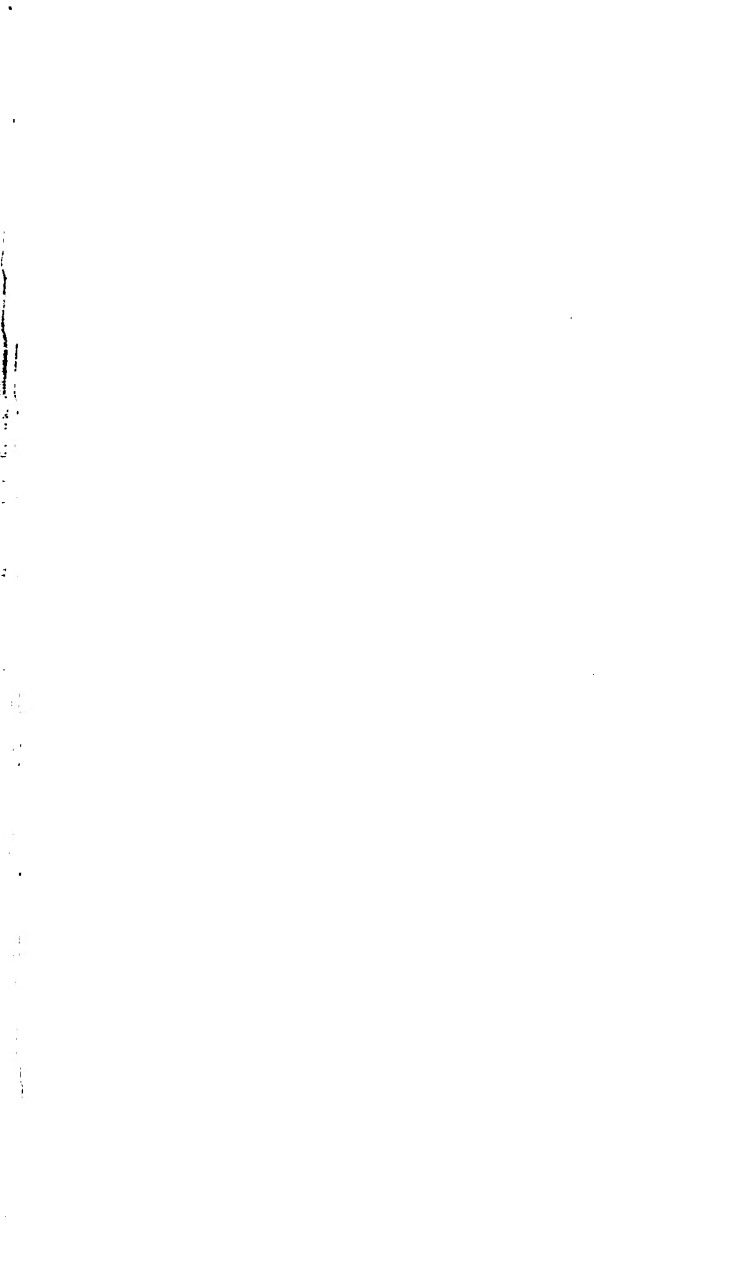


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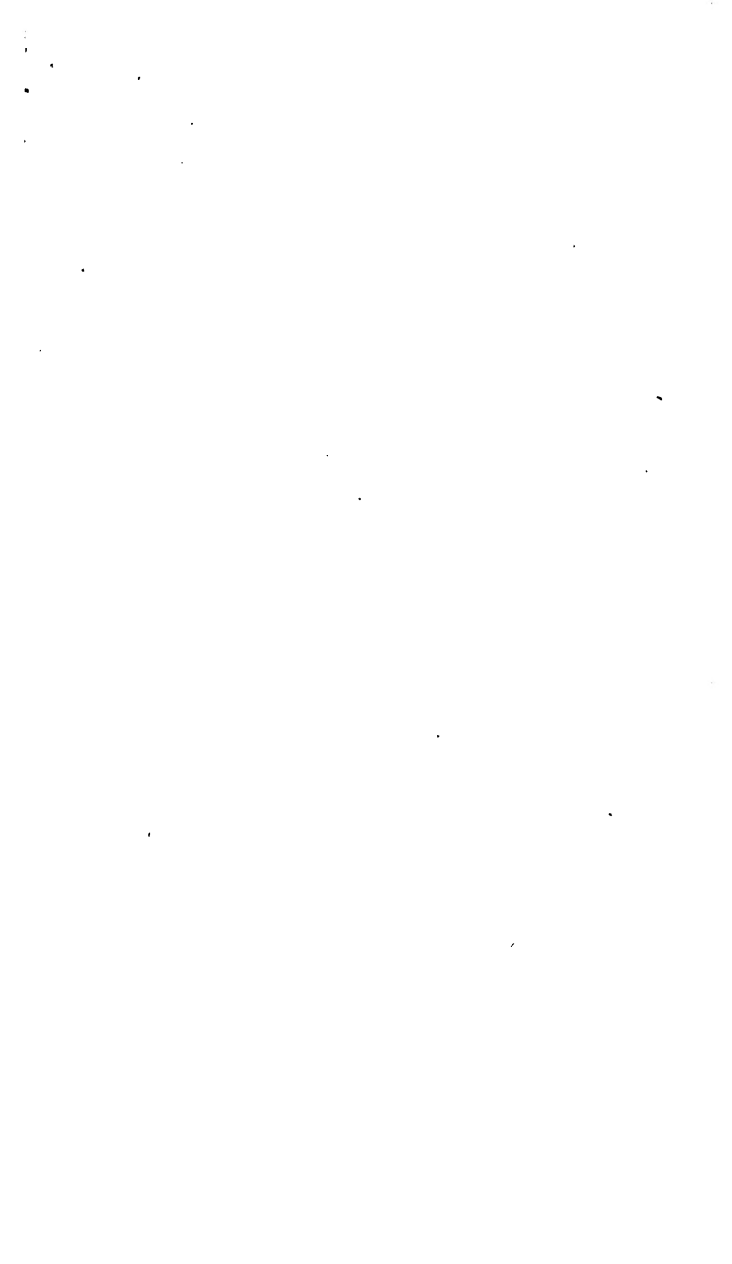




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**Plan**  
*of the*

**CITY and HARBOUR**

*of*  
**ABERDEEN.**

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
ABERDEEN;

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
RISE, PROGRESS, AND EXTENSION OF THE CITY,  
FROM A REMOTE PERIOD TO THE PRESENT DAY;

INCLUDING ITS  
Antiquities, Civil and Ecclesiastical State,  
MANUFACTURES, TRADE, AND COMMERCE;

AN ACCOUNT OF  
*The See of Aberdeen, and the two Universities;*

WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF EMINENT MEN CONNECTED  
WITH THE BISHOPRICK AND COLLEGES.

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By WALTER THOM,  
AUTHOR OF SKETCHES ON POLITICAL ECONOMY,  
&c. &c. &c.

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IN TWO VOLUMES. ✓

VOL. I. —

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ABERDEEN:

Printed by D. Thalmers and Co.  
FOR ALEX. STEVENSON, BOOKSELLER, CASTLE-STREET,  
AND SOLD BY HIM, AND ALL THE OTHER  
BOOKSELLERS.

1817.

PK

will not be accused of flattering *great men*. He has ever considered rank and fortune as only temporary distinctions, which must sink in the scale of merit, when compared with that true glory which arises from talents and virtue.

In illustrating the insulated facts relative to the early history of Aberdeen, it was found expedient, in order to render them generally intelligible, to interweave them with our national history : and therefore, a great part of the first volume is occupied with those important transactions which constitute the annals of our country. It is presumed, that this method of connecting local events with general history, will not be unacceptable to the reader, as it will relieve him from the prolixity of what otherwise must have been a dry, and, in some cases, an uninteresting detail.

The author feels it incumbent upon him to mention his obligations to several gentlemen, whose kind communications have greatly assisted him in the execution of this work ; and also, to return his warmest thanks to those who have furnished him with information connected with his subject.—The proprietor of the work has contributed all the assistance in his power ; but he is in no respect accountable either for the facts or the sentiments it contains : and the author alone is responsible for whatever may be thought objectionable in these volumes.



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ERRATA—Vol. i. p. 282. l. 18. for 1696, read 1697.

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## CHAPTER I.

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[THE ORIGIN OF CITIES—INDUCEMENTS TO SETTLE AT ABERDEEN—PROGRESS OF THE ROMANS—TACITUS—AGRICOLA—DEVA—DEVANA—TAIXALI—PTOLOMEY'S GEOGRAPHY—ITINERARIUM ANTONINI—RICARDUS CORINENSIS—INQUIRY AS TO THE SITE OF DEVANA—THE ORIGIN AND ETYMOLOGY OF THE NAME OF ABERDEEN—CELTIC NAMES—SUBSOIL OF ABERDEEN, AND ITS ANCIENT LIMITS.]

\* \* \* \*

**T**O some local advantage, connected with the subsistence or safety of the people, we may fairly ascribe the origin of towns or cities. In all countries, and in every stage of their progress from barbarism to refinement, mankind pursue the same objects when subjected to similar wants, or impelled by similar desires. The savage who disputes the dominion of the earth with the beast of the forest, must direct his exertions to the acquirement of the first necessities of life, and in this state of his existence, he is destitute and forlorn. But

in society he finds an asylum, and learns from experience, that, by union, men derive an aggregate strength that produces individual safety. His interest therefore, as well as that social principle which pervades the human heart, leads him to associate with his fellow men. Families, thus, coalesce into tribes; and their union is a step towards the amelioration of their condition: but the dawn of improvement suggests the expediency of a fixed settlement; and some favourite spot, where they can procure subsistence and find protection, is selected, as the permanent station of the society. A defensible position, contiguity to the sea-coast, the banks of a river, or a productive soil, are generally the inducements which have weighed with the founders of cities to give a preference to one situation over another. And when we inspect the map of Europe, we find Rome on the Tyber, Constantinople on the Bosphorus, Marseilles on the ocean, Paris on the Seine, and London on the Thames, surrounded by fertile districts, and protected by strong military positions.

When we apply this principle to the original settlers of ABERDEEN, which is situated in 57. 8. 59. north latitude, and 2. 8. 0. west longitude,\* we can discover sufficient motives for establishing themselves on the sea-coast, where two considerable rivers, nearly united, discharge their waters into the ocean. An abundant supply of various kinds of fish, and the protection of commanding eminences, to which the inhabitants

\* The exact position of the Observatory of Aberdeen, according to Dr. Mackay.

bitants could resort in the moment of danger, were peculiar advantages that could not fail to attract the attention of the most ignorant people. Accordingly it has been said, that Aberdeen was the capital city of the TAIXALI, who inhabited that district of Caledonia, extending from the DEVA or Dee to the river TUBSIS or Spey ; but we are certain, that it was early known to the Romans under the name of *Devana*.\*

Our native historians are so full of fable and contradiction, that no reliance can be placed on their relations. But the Roman and Greek writers have thrown some light on the early state of our country ; and *their* testimony is confirmed by those stupendous works of ancient greatness and grandeur, which are still evident in the mutilated remains of Roman walls, military roads, stations, and towns. When historic narration is thus supported by lasting and indelible monuments, we cannot refuse our assent to its fidelity, nor question facts that are established by such indubitable proofs. The progress of the Romans, from *Bodotria* or the *Forth*, to *Ptoroton* or the *Burghead*, on the Moray Firth, is distinctly exhibited by Ptolemy's Geographical Tables, and the Itineraries of Antoninus, and Richard of Cirencester. But the discoveries of modern times have illustrated the records of antiquity ; and we can trace their stations from the

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\* *Oceani litus ultra horum fines, accolebant Taixali, his urbium princeps Devana, fluvii autem Deva et Ituna. Pars Grampii montis, quæ, ut promontorium, late se in oceanum, quasi in Germaniam occursum, extendit, ab illis nomen mutuatur.*—[Ricardi Corinensis de situ Britannis, Lib. ii. cap. vi. § 46. Ibid. ix.]

one extremity of their progress to the other, with correctness and accuracy. To imagine, however, that they confined themselves merely to the line of their roads, or to the ramparts of their fortified camps, is unnatural. And with justice we may suppose, that they explored the greater part of the country, through the means of their parties, their detachments, and military establishments.

Tacitus, the elegant historian of Agricola's campaigns, details the operations of that celebrated Commander with tolerable accuracy. But it is to a later period we must assign the knowledge of the Romans with the north of Caledonia; and *Ptolomy* of Alexandria, who flourished about the middle of the second century, is the first who mentions *Deva*, *Devana*, and the country of the TAIXALI.—“*Deinde qui magis orientales, sunt Taixali. Et urbs Devana,*” which he places in 58° 45". Although his map is reversed with respect to *east* and *west*, and he makes the coast tend more to the east than it actually does; yet his relative situations of places are more nearly correct than might have been expected, from an Egyptian geographer, so distant as he was from the country he describes, and informed only by the reports of others. But it shows the intimate acquaintance of the Romans with the wilds of Caledonia; and how much we are indebted to them for the first glimmerings of our history; which certainly chides our national vanity, and proclaims that our ancestors were then a subjugated people.

In the “*Itinerarium Antonini*,” *Devana* and the ri-

ver Deva are noticed. This work appears to have been written about 270 years after Ptolomy's geography; but historians are unwilling to identify the author with any of the Imperial Antonines, and to his labours alone we must bestow the tribute of respect.

Ricardus Corinensis, or Richard of Cirencester, a monk of the 14th century, compiled an itinerary of the Romans, in which he mentions Devana and Deva: "Oceani littus ultra horum fines accolébant Taixali. His urbium princeps Devana, &c." Richard, it is said, travelled into Italy; and having consulted Cæsar, Strabo, Tacitus, Ptolomy, and other authentic authorities, compiled an itinerary of the Roman armies in Britain, so accurate and distinct, as to form a guide to the researches of antiquarians, who by its means have disclosed the *sites* of camps and stations after a concealment of sixteen centuries.

In Richard's *itineræ* the progress of the Romans is marked by stages, and the distances between them measured by miles. It would be foreign to our purpose to pursue the whole of Richard's itinerary from Carlisle to the Moray Firth. But it may be proper to observe, that he makes the distance to be thirty-one miles, from the Esica or Esk, to Devana on the Dee, which nearly corresponds with the exact breadth of the county of Kincardine, which is bounded by these rivers. It would be too fastidious indeed to apply the nicety of a modern engineer to the mensuration of ancient geographers. If they approach the truth, so far as to mark the particular objects of our inquiry, it is all we can expect or obtain.

That such a place as Devana existed, and was situated somewhere on the banks of the Dee, and well known to the Romans, is beyond all doubt. But the love of theory, and the discordant opinions of antiquaries in general, have often perplexed or obscured and, not seldom, tortured, the plain meaning of the ancients. It is, therefore, not surprising that the exact *site* of Devana should still be a matter of controversy—General Roy having placed it in Old Aberdeen, and the laborious author of “*Caledonia*,” somewhere in the parish of Peter Culter.

On the maps of Ptolomy and Richard, Devana is set down, apparently at the distance of about six miles from the sea. In hundreds of our modern maps we shall find similar errors, when we apply the compass to the rule. The hand of the engraver is sometimes arbitrary, and assumes a latitude that defeats the accuracy of the most skilful engineer. Such be the case in this age of arts and science, with how little reason do we expect extreme correctness in the geographical delineations of the ancients, who were destitute of those ingenious instruments which so much facilitate our astronomical observations, and enable us so easily to fix the precise situation of places.

Mr. Chalmers, the author of “*Caledonia*,” minutely traces the progress of the Roman armies, from the Tay to the Dee. The accuracy of his statements, however, depends upon properly fixing the different intermediate stations to which Richard alludes in his itinerary: with the aid of a few settled points, a

much ingenuity, he leads them directly to *Norman Dikes*, in the parish of Peter Culter, where he places the city of Devana.\*

It is generally believed, that the Romans advanced along the base of the Grampian mountains, keeping these natural ramparts on their *left*, and the open country, with the German Ocean, on their *right*. It is certain, that Agricola followed this line of march, by which he confined the hostile inhabitants to the tops of the mountains, and reserved to the army, the means of a safe retreat to his shipping in the event of disaster. In this route, we can still find the remains of several Roman fortifications, which sufficiently indicate the progress of the armies; and, with the assistance of Richard, we can have little difficulty in following them from the Tay to the Dee. But as the distances between the stages do not exactly correspond with our measurements, we have nothing to direct us to the precise situation of the city Devana, but only know, that it was thirty-one miles from the Esk, and situated on the Deva. This circumstance has given occasion to Mr. Chalmers to fix it at Norman Dikes, which are evidently the remains of a Roman fortification.

The camps at Keithoc, Fordun, Arduthy, Rae Dikes, and Norman Dikes, are certainly in the line of the Roman progress to the Moray Firth; and from the nature of the ground they must have been strong military positions. They would, therefore, be regularly fortified, and permanently garrisoned; but we have

no

\* Caledonia, vol. 1.

no reason to believe that such was the case. For Richard mentions no station from the Esk to the Dee, but "*Tina*," which is eight miles from the former; and besides, the camp of Rae Dikes is generally allowed to be that of *Galgacus*, when he opposed Agricola; and must therefore be assigned to a period long previous to the time of the Itinerary, which alludes to the progress of the Romans when their empire among us "was in its greatest glory, and at its farthest extent."

That Rae Dikes was not a Roman fortification, and the camp at Arduthy not a permanent station, is pretty evident. To the age of Agricola we must refer these camps; the one being that of the Caledonian, and the other that of the Roman army.

Notwithstanding Mr Chalmers positively asserts, that Agricola never penetrated so far north as Rae Dikes, and that the battle of the Grampians was fought at Ardoch in Perthshire; yet there is a balance of evidence in contradiction, that outweighs his arguments, and in no small degree, authenticates the relations of our native historians.

In Agricola's eighth campaign the Caledonians were pressed to an extremity -- they were confined to their mountains. The Romans occupied the low, and we may presume, the only fertile districts of the country. No considerable battle had been fought during that campaign; and the whole strength of the Caledonian nations was collected to repel the invaders. They waited the approach of the enemy, and consequently had it in their power to choose their own ground. It



is reasonable, therefore, to suppose, that they would select the situation best adapted for defence ; and besides, the position at Rae Dykes is the last strong hold that the Grampians present. It is situated on the top of *Gurniohill*,\* which gradually rises to a height equal to that of the other Grampians, and is separated from them, by a valley not more than a mile in breadth. The fortification, is certainly constructed somewhat after the Roman manner—of nearly a rectangular form, with lofty ramparts, and an immense fosse ; it fronts the *south*, and on that side, is carefully guarded by redoubts, and an advanced post. It is evidently the camp of an army expecting an enemy from the *south*.

But within these few years, the remains of another camp were discernible at *Arduthy* ; which there is strong reason to believe was Agricola's ; and it closely corresponds with Tacitus' description of the position of the Romans, before they engaged the Caledonian army. It is situated on an eminence, with a precipice to the *north*, about three miles directly *south* from Raedykes, and within half a mile of the sea. That the Romans were the assailants in the battle of the Grampians is not questioned ; and it appears, that they turned the *left* of the Caledonian camp, by marching north-eastward to *Kempstonehill*, where the sanguinary contest undoubtedly took place : and on which, are still to be seen many *tumuli*, and other indications of hostile contention. Although it is ge-  
ne-

\* Transactions of the Society of Antiquarians, Edinburgh, vol. 1.

nerally believed that after that battle, Agricola treated to Fife, the country of the Horesti, yet he must have sent a detachment to Devana, from which he was only ten miles distant.

But, as we have no positive authority for supposing that the Romans advanced so far north as Devana at the time of Agricola, we must ascribe to Lollius Urbicus their first progress to the country of the Tairrcon and perhaps to the *Varar*.

The camp of Norman Dikes, which is certainly Roman, unequivocally points out the line of march to *Ituna*, or the Ythan. But from this circumstance alone, it is not a justifiable inference to assert, that Devana was situated at that fortification. The existence of a camp is no proof of the locality of a city; the one is by no means a necessary consequence of the other. Indeed, we find Roman camps in situations the least adapted for the stations of troops. The art of war is different from the pursuits of peace, and the military system of nations has been nearly the same in all ages. Positions favourable either for defence or attack, are eagerly sought after by the experienced soldier, and a commanding eminence, or a difficult pass, is the object of his peculiar solicitude.

In traversing a hostile country, where the inhabitants were brave, and not unskilful in the military art, the Romans, it is to be presumed, would intrench themselves and fortify themselves in the strongest and most commanding positions; but when they defeated the natives, they would naturally scour the open country and push their parties to take possession of the

and villages. Notwithstanding the camp of Norman Dykes might have been the permanent station of the Roman army, yet it is probable, that parties would be detached to Devana, as well as to every other place of strength in the country of the Taixali.

When the subjugation of the people rendered the precaution and watchfulness of war no longer necessary; and when confidence was fully restored between the conquerors and the vanquished, the intercourse that subsisted in the Roman provinces, would naturally pass by the shortest road. In that case, the distance from the Esk to Devana, is correctly enough expressed by thirty-one miles, although it had been situated at the mouth of the Deva.

But Mr. Chalmers is aware of the difficulty, and cannot reconcile Richard's distance with true measurement, without supposing *Esica* to be Brechin—*Tina*, some place *two and a half miles from the North Esk*—*Rae Dikes* a Roman station—and Norman Dikes, Devana; but these assumptions are hypothetical, for Richard merely says, *ad Esicam* 23 miles—*ad Tinam* 8 miles—*ad Devanam* 23 miles. The *site* of Tina is unknown, and it is uncertain whether Richard alludes to the *south* or the *north Esk* by his *ad Esicam*. The intermediate camps of Fordoun, *Arduthy*, or, according to Mr. Chalmers, *Rae Dikes*, which are indispensable links in his chain of stations, are not mentioned by Richard; but Mr. Chalmers, removes this objection by stating, that the *ninth* Itinerary had been compiled previous to the formation of these fortifications.\*

It

\* Richard's *Ninth* Iter comprehends the progress of the Romans from Carlisle to Burghead, on the Moray Firth.

It is pretty evident, however, that the camps of Arduthy and Rae Dikes existed long before the period of Richard's Itineraries, the earliest of which is assigned by Whitaker to about the middle of the second century, or about seventy years after Agricola's campaign. As these fortifications were never permanent stations, but only known to the Romans as the temporary camps of the army in Agricola's expedition, Richard could not mark them as fixed settlements in the progress, and therefore determines the distance to be 23 miles between the two points, Tina and Devana, which had been well known stations at that time.

Although there are several reasons for discrediting Mr. Chalmers' opinion, that Devana was at Normandy Dikes, yet there is no evidence that can be relied upon, to identify it with Aberdeen. Without any better authority than what we possess at the present day, the learned Camden says, "*Devana urbs per-antiqua Ptolomeo, nunc vero Aberdonia, id est, Devæ ostii Britannica dictione ab ipsis Scotis appellatur.*" The same assertion has been re-echoed through different authors without the slightest inquiry or investigation, and in fact, we have no means of determining the question but such as arise from probability or conjecture.

Devana (scilicet urbs) signifies the city situated on the *Dee*, from which the Latin Deva is borrowed, with very little alteration in the pronunciation; but the Gaelic name is *Deabhadh*, pronounced *Devay*, which implies speed or swiftness, and is expressive of the velocity or rapidity of the river.

Unless we believe that Devana was erected by the Romans for their own conveniency and accommodation, we must admit, that it previously existed, and must have been known, by a name of Celtic origin, the Gaelic at that time being the prevailing language of the country. But it is no where said, that it was built by the Romans; and we may therefore conclude, that they only gave it a name which was applicable to its local situation on the river. This supposition is the more probable, as it corresponds with the practice of that proud people, who despised the language, the manners, and customs of all nations, and arbitrarily imposed names on the inhabitants and their towns, wherever they penetrated.

That Devana existed under a Gaelic name, previous to the time of the Romans, is extremely probable; and as we have no tradition, or authority for supposing, that any city or town was ever known on the banks of the Dee, situated between Norman Dykes and the mouth of the river, but *Aberdeen*, we have, therefore, some reason to presume, that it was the Devana of the ancients. And this supposition is supported by inference from the words of Ptolomy and Richard, who call it the *chief city of the Taixali*, which is a mode of expression inapplicable to a new or Roman erection; and plainly means, that the tribe Taixali had a *principal city* which the Romans denominated Devana, as a name appropriate to its situation on the Devay or Deva; for if the Romans had founded and reared Devana, it would not have been called by their writers, the city of the Taixali, but a city in the country inhabited by that people.

It may be stated as an objection to this opinion, that if Aberdeen had been *Devana*, our native historians would have retained the name, and not latinized it by *Aberdonia*, as Hector Boece, and others of our early writers have done. But the Celts had an invincible antipathy to every innovation in their language and would not have adopted a foreign name; and it must be remembered, that after the Romans retired from Britain, their language and their arts were lost. From the period of their retreat, to the revival of letters, a long night of darkness intervened. The utmost ignorance and most gross barbarity every where prevailed; and it was from the east that the western nations again obtained the first glimpse of literature and science. The Roman authors were read, studied and admired; and their language became that of the learned throughout Europe. Our early historians therefore, recorded their facts, and conveyed the sentiments in the elegant language of ancient Rome. But the *Roman* names of places in Caledonia had been long sunk in oblivion; and of necessity, they latinized the original or Celtic names, with which the readers were familiar.

That Aberdeen is the *Devana* of the ancients highly probable; and if we have no direct proof for fact, we have, still, strong presumptive evidence from circumstances. That it has been generally supposed to be so, may have some weight. Its local situation which is so well adapted for the site of a town, the antiquity of its name which is purely Celtic, and the considerations above mentioned, are, in

small degree, circumstances of the prevailing opinions of our early historians. We shall, however, leave the reader no longer with the inquiry, but directed to investigate the origin of the name by an etymological analysis of the compound word *English*.

That the island of Britain was originally peopled by Celts is universally admitted. They came from the borders of the Euxine Sea, and occupied Scandinavia, Germany, Gaul, Spain, and Britain. They are supposed to be of Scythian extraction, or at least descended from the same stock; and indeed it has been the aboriginal inhabitants of Europe throughout its wide extent.\* This opinion seems to be confirmed by a similarity in the ancient languages. The Goths at a period long since, followed the Celts, and intermingled with them in manners, customs, and language. But it is sufficient for our purpose to produce the authority of Strabo, who says, "The present age" is satisfied with the simple and common opinion, "that the islands of Great Britain and Ireland were" gradually peopled from the adjacent Continent of "Gaul. From the time of Rome to the century of" "Carlemae and Char, the memory of a Celtic origin" was distinctly preserved in the national pronunciation of language, religion, and of manners."

The remaining dialects of the Celtic language, are the Erse or Gaelic in the Highlands of Scotland; the

\* Gosselin Pownall's "Treatise on the History of Linguistics." Also see Fabricius's "Disquisition on the Origin and Progress of the Scythians or Goths."

\* 4th ed. v. iv. p. 137.

Irish, in Ireland; the Welch or Cornish in England; the British in Bretagne or Brittany, in France; and the Armoric on the sea-coast of Flanders; but the two last are nearly extinct. The Gaelic was universally spoken in this country until a late period; and consequently, the names of places are generally of Celtic origin.

The name *Aberdeen* is a compound of the Gaelic *A-bar* and *Dun*, which signifies — *Hill in the Marsh*.— The word *Aber* or *Abar* has been differently interpreted by Etymologists; but is generally misunderstood. Pinkerton says, it is the German *Uber*, (beyond,) and “*means simply a town beyond a river* ;” but it is not easy to conceive how a town can be beyond a river to the people who live on the same side with it. He deduces its Gothic origin from the fact, that many towns in Germany have *Aber* or *Eber* prefixed, in the formation of their names. The Celts, however, were the precursors of the Goths, who intruding upon them at a late period, borrowed much of their language and adopted many of their names of places. The German *Uber*, or *Ober*, is therefore, merely a corruption of the Celtic *Abar*. But, Borlase, in his *Cornish Vocabulary*, informs us, that *Aber* implies “a ford, a fall of water, a mouth of a river, a meeting of two rivers;” and the author of “*Caledonia*,” says, “signifies a confluence of water, the junction of two rivers, the fall of a lesser river into a greater.

The variety of meanings thus attached to *Ab* make it applicable to many situations; but we find it used where there is no river, which shows, that it



been misunderstood by those who have pretended to explain it. Indeed, it has been generally confounded with *Inver*, which is a very different word, and has a very different import; yet *Aber* and *Inver* have been made synonymous by those who are ignorant of the true origin and meaning of the former.

*Inver* (Ion-mhar, Gaelic, that is, ann (s'a) mhuir, into the sea) signifies situated near the mouth of a river running into the sea; but it is sometimes applicable to a situation near the confluence of two streams, as *Ionnhar-Lochaidh*, or *Inver-Lochy*, (Fort William) situated between the Nevis and Lochy, on the spot where these rivers discharge themselves into the sea. The explanations of *Aber*, by Pinkerton, Chalmers, and others, apply to *Inver*, which is well understood in the Gaelic, and in the dialects of Lochaber and Argyle, is generally used to express a situation near the conflux of two rivers.

*Aber*, spelt *Abar* in Gaelic, is a compound of two words—*Au*, water, and *Bar*, an obstacle. Hence it signifies a *marsh*; for whatever obstructs the course of water causes stagnation, and generates a marsh. This term, as a proper name, is well known in the Highlands of Scotland, and is often employed as an appellative to denote *slime*, or *sediment deposited in the bottom of marshes, bogs, or stagnant waters of any kind*; hence, figuratively, a *marsh*. It was in this sense, the aboriginal Celts used it, and in this sense it is still used by the Gael, who are the descendants of the Celtæ, and to this day speak a dialect of their language.

When the meaning of *Aber* was so completely misunderstood by etymologists, as to be substituted for that of *Inver*, it is no wonder that they could not reconcile its application to places at a distance from the sea, or from rivers. But, wherever *Aber* has been applied, it will be found, on enquiry, that it is descriptive of the nature and situation of the place. The language of the Celts is strong, powerful, and discriminating; copious and full of metaphor, it enabled them to impose figurative, but significant, names on all the prominent objects of nature in their country. Rivers and lakes, hills and mountains, towns and villages, received appellations descriptive of their peculiar qualities or situations. These names have, in general remained in Caledonia to this time; although in many cases corrupted, and with more or less alteration in the orthography. But *Aber-deen* has undergone little change either in sound or orthography, for *A-be* is still pronounced *Aber*; and *Don*, *Doone*, *Doon*, *Deen*, are only provincial alterations of the Gael *Dun*, which signifies a Fort, and hence, metaphorically, a *hill*; as forts were formerly nowhere erected but on hills.

In no instance is the propriety of Celtic appellatives more forcibly evinced, than in the name *Aberdeen*; for we can establish, from indubital evidence, that the whole area of the town was *marsh*, with the exception of the *Castle* or *Fort-hill* which is gravel, and *St. Catherine's Hill*, which is sand, and has evidently been deposited by the sea. That this country was formerly covered with wa-

and full of morasses, is undeniable, as we have the testimony of Roman writers to that effect. But our daily experience confirms the fact, as we every where find the remains of trees in our existing marshes. The origin of morasses and *moss earth* has admitted of some doubt, and afforded room for discussion. But whether the overthrow of the forest has induced the morass, by stagnating the waters; or, the springs and rills have caused the destruction of the forest, by loosening the earth and rendering it less solid around the roots of the trees, by which they would become unable to withstand the violence of the blast, is extremely uncertain. We are, however, certain, that moss earth, or peat, is the production of decayed vegetables and stagnant water; and that the growth of those vegetables from which moss is formed, is promoted by atmospheric air, and the decomposition of water. The formation of mosses, is uniformly to be traced to the same cause, the accumulation of dead and partly decayed vegetables, assisted by humidity. But the *marci*, and aquatic plants will only grow in wet situations; and where there is no water there will be none of that class of vegetables. Water is indispensable to the formation of peat or moss earth; and is the primary cause of its existence.\* We are therefore certain that wherever we find peat, the soil must have been covered with stagnant water, or in other words, that it has been in the state of a marsh.

That the area on which the city of Aberdeen is  
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\* "A Treatise on Moss Earth," by William Aiton.

situated has been formerly a swamp or morass, with the exception of the hills already mentioned, is established by indisputable evidence. Strata of peat have been found at various depths, along the range of Broad-Street, and all the north-east quarter of the town; also, in the south end of Castle-Street, the Shiprow, the Shore-Brae, the Netherkirkgate, and along the south-west quarter. In these beds of peat and moss earth, timber has been found in various stages of decay, and some of it with the appearance of having been in a state of ignition. The peat strata are no doubt frequently interrupted by beds of sand and gravel; but such breaches of continuity are common to all mosses, and arise from a natural cause. If a marsh were level in the surface, and the water uniformly extended over it, the strata would be regular and unbroken; but the surface of marshes is seldom level, and consequently the obstacles to the water are partial. One part is therefore dry, while another is covered; and on such parts only where there is abundant moisture will moss plants vegetate or moss earth be produced.

In digging foundations for houses, in several places in Aberdeen, beds of peat have been found not less than six or eight feet in thickness. As the growth of moss is extremely slow, it must have required ages to produce such a quantity. But when the people who established themselves around the Castlehill, or their descendants, first turned their

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tion to the cultivation of the soil, or from their increase of population wanted room to rear new habitations, they would naturally begin to drain the ground by cutting tracks or ditches to let off the water. In this manner they would gradually reclaim the land; and from the deficiency of moisture the increase of peat moss would cease. In a progression of this kind they would proceed, until the whole of the most elevated grounds were drained, and rendered fit for the sites of houses, or the production of useful vegetables. But the advance to improvement is tardy. The progress of mankind in the amelioration of their condition is gradual, and the work of ages. Within the memory of the present generation, that quarter of the town situated west of the Gallowgate, called the *Locklands*, on which houses and streets are now erected, was completely a marsh. And not very many years ago, an aqueduct was carried from that *Loch*, along Broadgate in the site of the houses which now form the west side of that street.

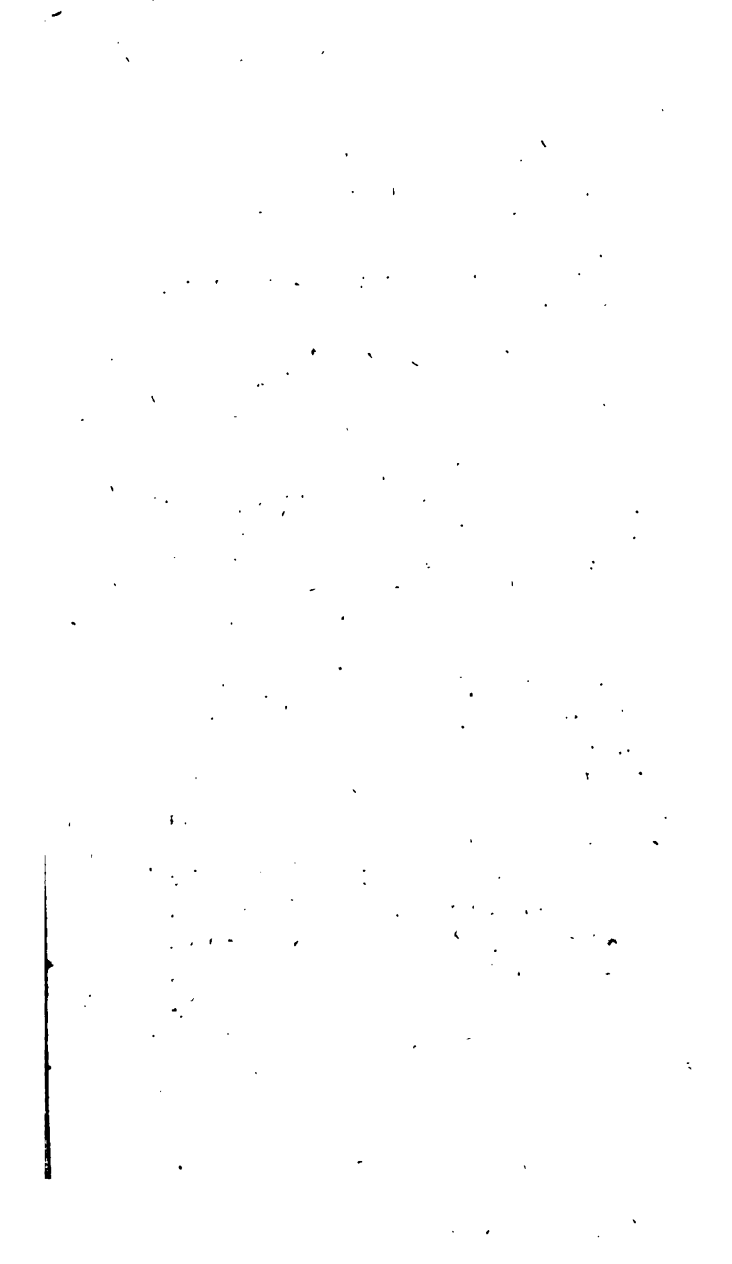
As it is an undoubted fact, that peat or moss earth is every where found to be the subsoil of the land on which Aberdeen is built, with the exceptions before mentioned, it is perfectly clear that the surface must have been covered with stagnant water, or in other words, that it was a marsh. For nothing is more certain, than that where there is moss or peat there must have been water, as the effect infallibly discovers the cause. Although it does not follow, that where there is water there must be moss earth, yet it admits of

no question, that where there is peat there must have been water, as it is an indispensable requisite to the formation of moss, and the agent that induces its generation.

As it is evident that the town of Aberdeen is situated on ground that was formerly a *marsh*, the propriety of the Celtic name *Aber-deen, don, doune, dun* is apparent. For the descriptive appellation "*HILL IN THE MARSH*," not only corresponds with the situation of the place at that early period, but affords a strong instance of the expressive and appropriate language of the CELTS. The labours of the antiquary are thus facilitated by the researches of the etymologist; and, in the absence of historic record, a ray of light illumines our path, and enables us to trace something certain as to the early state of the country.

The limits of Aberdeen, until a comparatively modern period, were confined within natural and distinct bounds. The Castlehill, extending from its eastern extremity to St. Catharine's, which must also be included, and the elevated ground on which the streets of Broadgate and Gallowgate are erected comprehended the whole extent of the ancient town, and its limits were particularly defined by its Position. The river Don swept the base of the Broadhill, and by a turn southward nearly approached to the Dee. The sea washed the southern base of the Castlehill, and the Dee overflowed the *Green*. We have no reason, therefore, to believe, that the low ground lying between the two rivers was early occupied; part of

indeed was only lately reclaimed. The Don, by accident turned more to the east, and the Dee was restrained by art: but within these three centuries the German Ocean has greatly receded along the east coast of Scotland, and left unequivocal indications of its former bed. In this district we include the *Green*, *Virginia-Street*, and the whole space extending from the Denburn Bridge to the Canal, and from thence eastward to the former efflux of the Don. But the walls of the town were latterly its boundaries, and they can still be traced by the ports, which were standing within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants. The city was accessible by five gates or ports. One was placed at the north-east corner of Castle-Street, called Justice Port, from its being the way to the hill where justice was administered and enforced. The other, Footdee Port, at the east extremity of Castle-Street—a third and fourth called the Nether and Upper-kirkgate Ports, because, by these gates the people passed to St. Nicholas' Chapel, and the fifth Port was situated at the head of the Gallowgate. Part of the wall between the Nether and Upper-kirkgate is still standing, and within the area described by the five Ports the city was confined till of late years. But manufactures, commerce, and industry, have expanded the town on all sides, over an irregular and diversified surface; and it now occupies more than ten times its former extent.





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## CHAPTER II.

### CONTENTS.

[THE FIRST NOTICE OF THE PICTS—DIFFERENCE OF OPINION RELATIVE TO THE PICTISH NATION—ORIGIN OF THE NAME PICT—ORIGIN OF THE NAME CALEDONIAN—ORIGIN OF THE SCOTICÆ GENTES—SCOTO-IRISH—SAXONS, THEIR LANDING IN SCOTLAND—NORTHUMBRIANS—UNION OF THE DIFFERENT NATIONS IN SCOTLAND UNDER KENNETH M'ALPINE—LANDING OF THE DANES AND NORWEGIANS—CONSTANTINE—ED, ECHOID, AND GREIG OR GREGORY—CHARTER OF ABERDEEN—STATE OF LEARNING—IONA—IONIAN SCHOOL—GREGORY THE MAORMOR OF THE COUNTRY OF ABERDEEN AND BANFF—CHARTERS—CHARTER OF ABERDEEN FICTITIOUS.]

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WHEN the Romans penetrated into Caledonia, they found it inhabited by a people in every respect the same as the South Britons. In manners and in language the resemblance was striking; and the natives of both countries were evidently of Celtic origin. During two ages the inhabitants were denominated *Caledonians* by the Romans; but in the third century, or rather in the beginning of the fourth, they receiv-

ed the additional name of *Picts*, and were distinguished by the appellatives *Caledonii* and *Picti*. Eumenius in his panegyrical oration\* to Constantius is the first who mentions the Picts; and he seems to consider them the same people as the Caledonians for he speaks of "*the woods and marshes of the Caledonians and other Picts.*"†

This distinction of names has given rise to endless discussions, and it is yet an unsettled point among antiquaries, whether the Picts were a new race who had invaded and established themselves in this country, or only the aboriginal Caledonians under a different appellation. While the opinions of learned and eminent men are so contradictory, it is difficult to ascertain the truth, but it is our duty to adopt that side of the question on which the strongest probability rests, and the greatest weight of evidence preponderates.

The classic authors of the fourth century acknowledge, that the Picts, who were first noticed at that time, were the same people as the Caledonians. Buchanan and Camden agree with the Roman writers, and the former judiciously remarks, that before the arrival of the Saxons, the different people of Britain could converse together without the assistance of interpreters; that no traces of a foreign language remained in the country of the Picts; and that the names of districts, of towns, of villages, mountain

\* This oration, it is said, was delivered in March, 310.

† "Non dico Caledoniam, aliorectique Pictorum, *silvas et pudes, sed, &c.*"—See Pinkerton's Enquiry into the History of Scotland, vol. 1. p. 113.

lakes, and rivers, are of Celtic origin. Maul,\* Lhuys,† Innes,‡ and many other assiduous inquirers, are decidedly of opinion, that the Picts and Caledonians were the same people, and of the same stock as the South Britons, who are universally allowed to be the descendants of the Celtic Gauls.

Bede and his followers, however, with Stillingfleet, Pinkerton, Jamieson,§ and others, think, that the Picts were *Goths*, who had emigrated from the north of Europe, and consequently a distinct race from the South Britons.

The question seems to rest more on circumstantial than on historic evidence. Pinkerton acknowledges that the Caledonians and Picts were the same people, under different names; but he ascribes to both a Gothic origin, and supposes they came from Scandinavia, about two centuries before the Christian era, when they expelled the Cambro-Britons from Caledonia. But probability is against such a supposition, and history is silent as to such a migration. It implies a knowledge of ship building, and some acquaintance with navigation, to say that a barbarous nation crossed a boisterous sea; but the stupid Goth, at that remote period, was ignorant of almost every art. Those who deny that the Picts were the descendants of the Cambro-British, suppose them to have been Gothic inva-

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\* "History of the Picts." † "Archæologia."

‡ "Critical Essay."

§ Vide Dr. Jamieson's Introduction to the Dictionary of the Scottish language.

ders, who arrived in this country during the third century. But we can nowhere trace an invasion previous to the fifth century, when the Anglo-Saxons appeared on the banks of the Tweed. If Caledonia had been invaded by a new people at that time, the Roman writers, of the third and succeeding century, would not have failed to record such an event.—But, from the reign of Vespasian to the time of Gratian and Valentinian, including a period of three hundred years, there is no Roman author who mentions such a circumstance; and in vain should we search for any evidence of such an event in the pages of Tacitus, Ptolemy, Dion, Herodian, or Eumenius.

As there is no historic testimony in favour of the opinion that the Picts were Goths, who had invaded this country, either before or after the Christian æra, or that they were a race in any respect differing from the Caledonians, in the time of Agricola; we must therefore, appeal to circumstantial evidence for a solution of the question, and deduce the truth from such topographical illustrations and probabilities as the nature of the subject will admit.

To the north of the Forth, Scotland is naturally divided into two great districts. The Grampian range reaches to the Dee, at the confluence of which with the German Ocean, at Aberdeen, they terminate, and, from that river, a range of lofty mountains runs northward to the extremity of the island. The people assigned appropriate names to these districts. The higher, they denominated *Celyda*, and the lower, *Peithu*. In the language of

Gael, the former denotes the mountainous, and the latter, the flat or plain country. *Cat*, *cel*, or *coil*, are pure Celtic words, and signify a *wood*; and *don* implies a *hill*, hence *Celyddon*, *wooded hills*, or the mountainous district. The inhabitants therefore distinguished themselves according to their respective bounds, by the names of *Celyddoni* and *Peikki*, which the Romans latinized by *Caledonii* and *Picti*.\* But as the Roman armies were first opposed by the people of the *Celyddon* district, they denominated the whole inhabitants *Caledonians*, and their country *Caledonia*. This distinction, which had been always observed by the natives themselves, and which arose from the natural division of their country, was not attended to by the Roman and Greek writers, during the three first centuries; and it was not until the beginning of the fourth that the inhabitants were particularised by the specific appellations of *Caledonii* and *Picti*, which certainly meant the *Highland* and *Lowland* North Britons.

Throughout Scotland, the ancient names of mountains, rivers, and places, are Celtic, and express a sense declarative of their nature or situation. This circumstance, alone, affords a strong presumption in favour of the opinion, that the *Caledonii* and *Picti* were the same people, and of the same descent. If the *Picts* had been a race different from the Aborigines, and had invaded this country at a period subsequent to the age of Agricola, we could certainly have traced some remains of their language in the topographical

\* Chalmers' *Caledonia*, p. 65. 201.

history of North Britain. But we every where find Gaelic names, and in these names the genius of the Celtic language to predominate. In the lowlands of Scotland, however, we discover Teutonic names; but these were imposed by the Anglo-Saxons, and English, at a time comparatively modern; and are therefore, no *criterion* by which we could ascertain the language of five previous centuries.

The Anglo-Saxon language, which is a dialect of the Gothic, is remarkable for its poverty and barrenness; and forms a striking contrast to the beautiful and copious diction of the Celts. The Goths originally adopted many of the Celtic names in Germany and in the north of Europe; and from the same cause, their descendants, the Anglo-Saxons, borrow much from the Celtic and Scoto-Irish languages, in which the Scoto-Saxon is enriched to this day. The difference of the language of the Celts from that of the Gothic colonists shows a difference of origin in the people; but in manners, in customs, and in religion there is also a marked distinction. If it be admitted however, that the Picts and Caledonians were the same people, it follows of course, that the Picts were neither Gothic colonists nor of Gothic extraction, the Caledonians were evidently of Celtic origin. From the whole we may conclude, that the descendants of the same people who fought Agricola at the battle of the Grampians finally repulsed the Roman legions at the distance of more than three centuries. In language and in manners a striking uniformity can distinctly be traced in the Caledonian nations, from the age of Agricola to the reign of Honorius; and

Celtic stock therefore, we may safely ascribe the inhabitants of this country, until their intermixture, at a later period, with Gothic Saxons, and other nations.

About the year 360, the *Scoticae gentes* are first mentioned in the pages of Roman history, as acting in conjunction with the Picts, and making fierce attacks on the provincials of South Britain. It is generally imagined, that they were emigrants from the shores of Ireland, who settled in the west of Scotland, and incorporated with the Picts and Caledonians. The Scoto-Irish spoke the same language as the Picts, which indicates that they proceeded from the same stock, and were descended from the Gael. A similarity of manners, and the identity of language, at that time, in South and North Britain, and in Ireland, sufficiently evince the common origin of the people; and the Gaelic tongue is certain proof of a Celtic descent.

From the time of Agricola to the final retreat of the Romans, a period of 350 years is included. Although the Romans maintained military stations and settlements for about two centuries throughout Scotland; it is, a melancholy fact, that the people made no progress in arts and civilization; for we must consign the polished age of Fingal to the imagination of the bards, and consider the poems of Ossian as the fabulous history of a subsequent period. The weakness of the Roman empire, which had been assailed on all sides by furious barbarians, prevented the Emperors from sending assistance to the provincials of South Britain, who were unable to withstand the

the attacks of their more warlike neighbours. The Scots and Picts carried havoc and devastation into the heart of South Britain; and to repel them, the Britons imprudently called in the assistance of the Saxons, who were followed by the Jutes and Angles. They turned their arms against the Britons, and after a bloody and destructive contest, finally subdued them, and established a Gothic dynasty. But the first appearance of the Saxons in Caledonia was in 449, and soon after, a body of that people debarked on the shores of the Forth, where, it is said, they formed settlements.

The Northumbrian monarchy was established in the year 547; and the Scoto-Irish and Pictish territories on the south and west, were protected and bounded by the Forth and the Clyde. For one hundred and thirty-eight years the descendants of the Goths and Celts carried on almost incessant warfare, but in 688 the Saxons received a signal defeat at Dunnichen Angus, where the Northumbrians lost their King; and for a few years, the Scots and Picts enjoyed the security of peace.

The restless nature of barbarous nations, however, precludes the continuance of tranquillity, and the Picts renewed the war, by a wasteful incursion into the country of the Northumbrians; but they were punished for their temerity by a complete overthrow upon the banks of the Tyne. After the defeat of the Picts in 710, the Saxons in Lothian remained unmolested, and gradually extended their settlements to the west. From the Forth to the Tweed, the Gothic  
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names of places indubitably show the conquests, the settlements, and language of the Saxons; and that they had remained for many years in possession of the southern districts of Scotland.

The kingdom of Pictavia had been much weakened by contests with the Saxons, and was still farther reduced by a series of destructive wars with the Scots, who had assumed the tone and character of conquerors. But by intermarriages between the royal families of the two kingdoms, both nations were united under one sovereign, and, in the year 843, KENNETH M'ALPINE became the heir and representative of the regal line. The name and characteristic distinctions of the Pictish nation were now lost; but in manners and in language they had differed little from the Scots. By mutual conquests, intercourse, and settlements, they had so intimately mingled with the Anglo-Saxons, that the language and policy of the latter had come to predominate over the greater part of Pictavia; and the united nation was a mixture of Picts or ancient Caledonians, Scoto-Irish or Dalriads, and Goths or Anglo-Saxons.

The reign of Kenneth was disturbed by the invasions of the Danes and Norwegians, who first poured upon the coasts of France, and then upon England and Scotland. Kenneth opposed the ravagers, and in 860 left a kingdom strong and united, to his brother and successor Donald. It is represented, that the ancient laws of the Scots were revised by Donald, who quelled an insurrection among his Pictish subjects,  
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and died after a short reign of four years.\* He succeeded in the sovereignty by Constantine the Great of Kenneth. The Danes having renewed their depredations, Constantine fought them on the banks of Laven in Fife, where he was successful in the onset; but rashly leading his forces to assault the camp, which was strongly fortified, he was defeated. The Danes passed into Strath Clyde, thence over to Ireland; but allured by plunder and revenge, they again returned to Scotland, defeated the Scots, and ravaged their territories. Amidst these disasters Constantine died in 882, and was succeeded by his brother Ed, who was slain by Eochoid and Greig.

Eochoid seems to have been a nominal Sovereign and it is said, that Greig enjoyed the whole power. From this Greig or Gregory, the municipal origin of the town of ABERDEEN is deduced. In the Statistical Account, and in different printed works, it is gravely asserted, that all historians agree in saying that Greg granted a Charter to the Town of Aberdeen, in the year 893, which was consequently erected into a burgh.

In the short sketch we have given of the state of Scotland from the invasion of the Romans to the time of Gregory, it may be seen, how little progress had been made in civilization by the inhabitants of Caithness, and how little reliance may be placed on anything that is said relative to them. During the gloom

\* Heron, vol. 1. page 42.

gloomy period; and, indeed, for several ages after, the people were in a state of almost savage nature. Constantly embroiled in warfare, they had neither leisure nor inclination to prosecute the useful arts, and learning was unknown, or only studied within the cells of the monks. The Gaelic was the only language of the country during the Scottish period; but there was no man sufficiently learned to commit it to writing, and it is doubtful if Gregory could sign his name.\*

The abbey of Iona was the seat of learning in that age. The cultivation of the human mind is the work of leisure, of security, and of peace. But this sacred retreat was frequently violated by barbarous invaders, who respected neither the sanctity of its walls nor the pure lives of its scholars. In the space of eight years, from 797 to 805, it was thrice burned by the Danes, and its inhabitants murdered. At an after period it was twice destroyed, and its Abbots and disciples massacred by Norwegian pirates; and it was once burned by accident. In rapid succession the Abbots of Iona followed each other to the grave; and this celebrated school gradually disappeared. Amidst such eventful changes, the voice of learning was only heard on the shores of Iona. But it was too feeble to

\* The English language was first introduced into Scotland by the Danes-Saxons, between the 9th and 11th centuries, but it did not become general in the country, until after the conquest of Edward I. towards the close of the 13th century. And in the Gaelic, which was the prevailing language of the country, there is not a single work in existence.

to reach the boisterous scenes of Scottish turbulence and the school of Kenneth, established at the capital of the Pictish kingdom, was only a faint and useless imitation of that of Iona. This age, and for long after, was the period of war and of bloodshed. The minds of men were sunk in ignorance and debased by barbarous manners.

In such circumstances, have we any reason to suppose, that municipal regulations were attended to or that the formality of a charter could constitute a right, when the sword was the only arbiter of law and of justice? Indeed it is generally believed that charters existed previous to the time of Edgar, about the beginning of the 11th century, or full two hundred years after the death of Gregory. The history of the life of Gregory is, besides, involved in such obscurity and contradiction that we can ascertain nothing concerning him that can be relied upon. One class of historians ascribe to his memory great and glorious deeds, while another represent him as an usurper and a robber. The credulous Abercrombie devotes a whole chapter to celebrate his martial achievements, illustrating his character by a lengthened view of his disinterestedness and moderation, piety and worth. But so vague and indefinite are our accounts of the transactions of those times that we are uncertain of the duration of his reign, time, place, or manner of his death.

When the early history of our country is divested of its fabulous interpolations, the *lives* of such heroes are generally resolved into a few inconsiderable facts.

Accordingly, our late writers deny to Gregory his glory and his conquests; and consider them merely as the fictions of the clergy, who blazoned his name, and consecrated his character, in return for largesses and benefactions. As far as prayers and protestations could go, the followers of the church, in all ages, and in all countries, have been ever grateful to those who have bestowed favours upon them; and Gregory, as the founder of the See of St. Andrews, merited and obtained the homage of their praise.\*

It is generally admitted, that Gregory was the *Muormor* of that part of the country which comprehended the counties of Aberdeen and Banff—that he was a bold and intrepid chieftain, who ascended the throne through the murder of Hugh the brother of Constantine—and that he reigned, in conjunction with Eochoid, for eleven years; but that he was deposed, and lived three years in retirement; and, it is said, that he died in 897, at his Castle of Dunadeer.†

It is probable, that Gregory afforded his protection to Aberdeen, and granted such verbal privileges to the people, who were perhaps his faithful adherents, as conveyed some distinction or pre-eminence over the less considerable villages in his ample domain.—But it is inconsistent with probability, and the state of the country at that period, to suppose, that Gregory could have given a charter in writing, or any thing corresponding to our ideas of such grants in the time of Alexander, of David, or of Robert de Bruce. The

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\* Chalmers' Caledonia, p. 429. † Ibid.

Scoto-Saxon period, or from the year 1100, is the age of charters; and none are in existence previous to that time, which are deemed authentic. We may be assured, therefore, that the charter said to have been granted by Gregory to the town of Aberdeen in the year 893, never had any existence, or only existed in the imagination of the credulous advocate for the antiquity of the municipal privileges of the city.

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## CHAPTER II. CONTINUED.

[THE SCOTISH KINGS FROM 894 TO 1157---SEE OF MORTLACH ESTABLISHED--ITS REMOVAL TO ABERDEEN--STATE OF THE COUNTRY--STATE OF LEARNING, &c.].

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**F**ROM the time of Gregory to the reign of David I. who removed the religious establishment of Mortlach to Aberdeen in the year 1154, we find nothing relative to this city that could be either credited, or worth recording. When we consider the distracted state of Scotland, and the deficiency or scantiness of written documents, for more than three centuries, it is not surprising, that there should be little to relate concerning the civil policy of this kingdom. It may not be improper, however, to rapidly trace the most important events in the history of our country, from the close of the ninth to the middle of the twelfth century; which will exhibit a faithful, tho' gloomy, picture of a rude and barbarous, but warlike nation;

and, at the same time, convince us, that municipal regulations were unknown in such turbulent ages. In the year 894, *Donald*, the son of Constantine, became king of Scotland. He was greatly harrassed by the Danes and Norwegians, who had effected a settlement, and powerfully established themselves in Moray \*. He quelled an insurrection of his own subjects, fought and defeated the Danes, but died of wounds at Forres, according to Fordun, after a reign of nine years. Boece affirms, however, that he went into Northumberland, where he died : but it is evident, that our accounts of his life are founded upon conjecture, and consequently unworthy of confidence.

Donald was succeeded by *Constantine*, the son of Ed, in 904 ; who, like his predecessor, was embroiled with the Norwegians in bloody warfare. They over-ran Pictland, but were finally defeated at Tadmor, and did not return for many years to disturb the kingdom. But *Æthelstan*, the English monarch, a no less powerful enemy than the Danes, invaded and devastated Scotland, which induced Constantine to form a close alliance with the Northumbrians ; whose forces, in conjunction with the Dano-Irish and his own people, he penetrated into England. *Æthelstan* met them at Brunanburg ; and a desperate battle ensued, in which the confederates were overthrown. Constantine escaped, and returned to his capital ; but soon after retired to St. Andrews, where he finished his days in peace, in the society of holy men†. Constantine

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\* Heron's Hist. of Scotland, vol. I. p. 44.

† Buchanan, vol. I. p. 211.



appears to have been engaged in almost incessant warfare; but historians are very contradictory as to the events of his life, and his transactions are therefore involved in as much obscurity as those of the preceding reign.

*Malcolm*, the successor of Constantine, quelled an insurrection of the "men of Moray," who had been instigated to rebellion by Kellach their chief, or Maormor. Kellach was slain; and Malcolm turned his arms against Northumberland. His Danish subjects in Moray again rose in rebellion; and he was killed by them at Fetteresso, in the Mearns, in the ninth year of his reign.\*

On the death of Malcolm, *Indulf* ascended the throne, in 953, but he was not more fortunate than his predecessor. The Danes ravaged the coasts of Scotland. A numerous party having landed in 961, in the bay of Cullen in Banffshire, Indulf met them, and a furious battle was terminated with the loss of his life, after a short reign of eight years.†

*Duff*, the son of Malcolm I. assumed the sceptre in 961, and his reign was embittered by civil discord. A competitor for the throne involved the country in all the calamities of domestic warfare; and Duff was assassinated at Forres, in 965, after a distracted reign of four years and a half.‡

*Culen*, succeeded Duff, and, by his crimes, involved the country in war with the Stratheluyd Britons, who met him in battle in Lothian; and slew him with his brother Eocha.§

\* Buchanan, vol 1. p. 212. † Chalmers' Caledon. v. 1. p. 391.

‡ Chalmers, vol. 1. p. 392. § Ibid. vol. 1. p. 393.

*Kenneth III.* in 970, was invested with sovereignty. He wielded the sceptre with a powerful arm; and continued the war against the Strathclyd Britons, until he subdued them, and annexed their country to the territories of the Scottish kings. He penetrated into Northumberland, spoiled the country, and carried off the son of the king\*. The Danes renewed their attacks, and landed on the banks of the Tay. *Kenneth* fought and defeated them at Luncarty. He murdered, it is said, *Malcolm*, the son of *Duff*. He quelled an insurrection in the county of *Mearns*, and put to death the son of *Finella*. But a woman's revenge is sometimes terrible, and he fell a victim to her perhaps just resentment. *Finella* fled, but did not escape; and on this circumstance a popular story is founded, which is still related in the county of the *Mearns*.† Thus terminated the guilty career of *Kenneth III.* after a long and bloody reign of twenty-four years.

*Constantine IV.* assumed the sceptre of *Kenneth*. He was the son of *Culen*, and his reign was short and inglorious. His right to the crown was disputed by *Kenneth IV.* called *Grim*. The hostile parties met on the banks of the *Almond*, and *Constantine* was killed.

*Kenneth IV.* son of *Duff*, surnamed *Grim*, ascended the throne in 995; but *Malcolm* of *Cumberland* conceiving himself to be the lawful heir to the crown, invaded *Scotland*, and *Grim* was killed in battle, after an unfortunate reign of eight years.‡

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\* Chalmers, vol. 1. p. 394. † Ibid. vol. 1. p. 396.—See also Mr. Robertson's excellent Survey of Kincardineshire, p. 191.

‡ Heron's History of Scotland, vol. 1. p. 56.

§ Chalm. vol. 1. p. 397.

*Malcolm II.* in 1003 seized the sceptre of Kenneth ; and his reign was a continued scene of warfare. The Danes, the Swedes, and Norwegians, with Sigurd, the Earl of Orkney, invaded the east and west coasts of Scotland, in all quarters. The Danes seized the Burgh-head of Moray, (the *Ptoroton* of the Romans), which afforded a safe harbour to their shipping, and an impregnable retreat to their forces.\* Sigurd carried his depredations along the shores of the Moray Firth. A reinforcement of Danes having landed, they advanced to meet Malcolm, who had collected the strength of the Scottish nation. They joined in battle at *Mortlach*, where a bloody conflict ensued ; and after fiercely contending for victory, the Danes were compelled to yield to the courage of the Scots. In obedience to a sacred vow, Malcolm endowed a religious house and church at Mortlach, which were erected on the site of the battle. *Mort-lach* are Gaelic words—*mort*, death, and *lach*, lake, which imply, the *Lake of Death*, or *Havock*. This religious establishment was confirmed by Pope Benedict, who, from the year 1012 to 1024, was the supreme head of the “ Universal Church ;” but it was afterwards removed to ABERDEEN.†

The Danes still continued their hostile descents on the shores of Buchan and Angus. Malcolm encountered them at Aberlemno, in Forfarshire, where they sustained a signal defeat ; and monumental pillars have perpetuated the remembrance of the victory.—

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\* Chalmers, vol. 1. p. 398.

† Ibid. vol. 1. p. 399.

A fresh body of Danish warriors landed at Panbride, under the valiant *Canus*, but he had penetrated only a few miles into the country, when he was killed, and his army totally routed by the Scots. But the Danes were neither intimidated nor repressed by such repeated defeats, and they landed again on the coast of Buchan, near to Slains Castle. The Maormor of the district attacked and overthrew them.\* Malcolm's vigour having finally repelled the Danish invaders, the Scottish nation was delivered from their depredations for a few years: but this unhappy country was still destined to feel the scourge of war. For Malcolm attacked Northumberland, and fought a severe battle with Earl Uchtred. He afterwards defended his country from the assaults of the powerful *Canute*, who penetrated into Scotland in the year 1031.—Malcolm's warlike reign was closed in the year 1033; but so contradictory are our chroniclers, that it is impossible to discover whether he died a natural death; or by the hand of the assassin.†

*Duncan*, the grandson of Malcolm, immediately succeeded the aged King. The tranquillity of his government was disturbed by insurrections; and he fell a victim to the ambition of Macbeth, who murdered him at Bothgowanan, near Elgin, 1039, after a reign of six years.‡

*Macbeth* ascended that throne to which he had paved the way by assassination. His administration was  
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\* Chalmers' *Caledonia*, vol. 1. p. 403.

† Heron's *Hist. of Scotland*, vol. 1. p. 59.

‡ Chalmers, vol. 1. p. 405.

wise and vigorous, but discontent prevailed in the nation, and revenge rankled in the bosom of Malcolm, the son of the murdered Duncan. Assisted by Siward, Earl of Northumberland, Malcolm marched into Scotland, and a bloody conflict took place between him and Macbeth, at Dunsinan. Macbeth retired to the country of his adherents; but again met his enemy, and was slain in battle at Lumphanan, in Aberdeenshire, in the year 1056, by the hand of Macduff, the Maormor of Fife.\* Shakespeare has finely dramatized the story of Macbeth; but his character has been injured as much by the poet as by some of our early historians; who appear to have been greatly prejudiced against him. The duration of his reign was seventeen years.†

*Lulach*,‡ the son of "*Lady Macbeth*," ascended the throne; and for a few months defended his crown and his life, against his rival, Malcolm Canmore. But Malcolm's good fortune gave him the victory at Essie in Strathbogy, where Lulach was slain, in 1057, after a short reign of four or five months.§ His body, with that of Macbeth, was conveyed to the sacred isle of Iona, and entombed in the cemetery of the Scottish Kings; a circumstance which proves, that they were considered as of the blood royal, and their remains accordingly respected by the conqueror.

After a contest of two years, *Malcolm III.* quietly ascended the throne in 1057, having been crowned  
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\* Chalmers, *Caledonia*, vol. 1. p. 413.

† Heron's *History of Scotland*, vol. 1. p. 60.

‡ Chalmers, vol. 1. p. 415.      § *Ibid.* vol. 1. p. 413.

at Scone with the usual solemnities. His first military enterprise was undertaken against Northumberland, which he invaded and laid waste. In 1070 he penetrated into England as far as Durham, spreading universal desolation, burning the edifices sacred to religion, and the unfortunate people who had taken refuge in them as sanctuaries respected by the usage of war. He spared neither age nor sex, and with savage barbarity massacred all without distinction. In the meantime, his own territories of Cumberland were ravaged by Gospatrick, Earl of Northumberland. In 1076, Malcolm again invaded Northumberland, and wasted the country as far as the river Tyne. In 1091, the English in their turn carried the war into Scotland, under William Rufus, but Malcolm negotiated a peace, and thus saved his country from the horrors incident to the theatre of hostilities. In 1093 Malcolm "burst into Northumberland with a tumultuary army, and renewed the miseries of that unhappy province."\* He was attacked, however, by Robert de Moubray, and slain, along with his eldest son.

Thus fell Malcolm Canmore, after a reign of 37 years, of almost continued warfare. He possessed intrepid courage, and it is said, that the cruelty of his disposition was much softened by the milder virtues of his wife Margaret; but it does not appear, by his actions, that he was ever guided by the dictates of humanity. He was completely illiterate; and in fact,

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\* Lord Hailes' Annals of Scotland, vol. I. p. 4. to 27.

a fierce barbarian, who ruled despotically over a savage people.

*Donald*, the brother of *Malcolm*, assumed the government, and expelled the family of the late king, with all the foreigners who had found protection at the Scottish court. *Duncan*, the bastard son of *Malcolm*, invaded Scotland at the head of a numerous army of English and Normans to dispossess *Donald*.—*Duncan* was successful, and reigned in his stead; but *Edmund*, a lawful son of *Malcolm III.* in conjunction with *Donald*, engaged in a conspiracy against *Duncan*.\* At their instigation, *Duncan* was murdered by *Malpeder*, *Maormor* of *Mearns*, and *Donald* again ascended the throne. He now more rigorously enforced the expulsion of foreigners; and so brutal were the manners of the age, that it was a national object to efface civility from the kingdom.† *Edgar* the son of *Malcolm* invaded Scotland in 1097, with an army raised in England, under the command of his uncle *Edgar Atheling*, and overcame *Donald*, whom he made captive, and put out his eyes, according to a barbarous practice. *Donald* closed the miseries of his life at *Rescobie* in *Forfarshire*.‡

The Scottish nation having endured innumerable calamities, in a series of civil wars, instigated by rival usurpers, or contending factions, gladly placed *Edgar* in 1098, on the throne of his ancestors. He was the fourth son of *Malcolm*, by *Margaret*, and the law.

\* *Lord Hailes' Annals*, p. 53, 54. † *Ibid.*

‡ *Chalmers*, vol. I. p. 425.

lawful heir to the crown, his elder brothers Edwa and Edmund being no more, and Ethelred having retired from the busy scenes of active life to the more happy occupations of the altar.\*

*Edgar*, in 1098, ascended the dangerous eminence which had been stained with so much royal blood. The dissensions of his enemies, perhaps, more than his amiable qualities, secured to him a reign of tranquillity for eight years; and on the 8th January 1106 or 1107, he died in peace.†

*Alexander I.* succeeding his brother Edgar in 1106 or 1107, enjoyed a quiet reign of 18 years, and died at Stirling, in April 1124, after having successfully resisted the pretensions of the Bishop of Canterbury who claimed the supremacy of the Scottish church.

*David*, the youngest son of Malcolm III. succeeded Alexander. The first important event of his reign was the rebellion of the people of Moray, who had marched south; but they were opposed at Strickathrow, in Angus, where they were totally routed, and their leader slain. He supported the rights of Matilda the daughter of Henry, against the pretensions of Stephen, who had usurped the throne of England. But his force was inadequate to the magnitude of the enterprise; and he was obliged to resign to Stephen the conquests he had made for Matilda in the north of England. To revenge his former disgrace, or to retrieve his reputation, he again invaded Northumberland, which his army wasted with merciless barbarity.

Stephen

\* Heron's History, p. 263.

† Hailes' Annals, vol. 1. p. 56.



Stephen hastened to meet him, and retaliated on the Scottish borders the enormities committed on the English territories. But insurrections of the nobles called Stephen to the south of England; and David taking advantage of his absence, in 1138, penetrated into Northumberland.\* His army renewed the excesses of the former invasion; and carried desolation wherever they went. Stephen was so pressed in the south, that he could make no effectual opposition to the Scots, and the security of the north of England was entrusted to the valour of the people, and the dexterity of Thurstin the Archbishop of York. This Prelate raised the standard of England, from which he suspended a consecrated host; and by the aid of religion, promises, and threats, collected a numerous army, which defeated the Scots on Cotton Moor, in the neighbourhood of Northallerton. David, with the shattered remains of his army, escaped to Carlisle, where Alberc the Papal legate negotiated a truce with him. And so barbarous were the Scottish troops, that the legate deemed it necessary to exact a solemn vow from them, that they should "*neither violate churches, nor murder any incapable from their age or sex of making resistance.*" In the following year, 1139, peace was concluded between David and Stephen at Durham.

Scotland was not again disturbed by war during the remainder of David's reign, if we except the predatory incursions of *Wimand* Bishop of Man, whose exploits

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\* Lord Hailes' Annals, vol. 1. p. 81.

terminated in the loss of his eyes and of his liberty. In the year 1153 David retired to Carlisle where he fixed his future residence ; but died the 24th May, while employed in the exercise of devotion.\*

The life of David has been handed down to posterity with peculiar minuteness, through the friendly and sedulous care of the monks. He was a great benefactor to the church, establishing bishopricks, and erecting and endowing many monasteries. Such things in that age were esteemed acts of pious beneficence. He removed the See of Mortlach, which was established by Malcolm III. to Aberdeen, in the year 1154, and formed it into the "*Bishoprick of ABERDEEN*," liberally endowing it with large revenues and extensive privileges.

In vain we have searched through the bloody history of Scotland for two centuries and a half, to find something worth recording relative to the city of Aberdeen. But the ignorance of a rude people has disappointed our expectations ; and the mind is sadly torn by the melancholy exhibition of the diversified calamities with which our country was afflicted, during those dark and gloomy ages. Of the eighteen Kings who swayed the Scottish sceptre, from the beginning of the tenth to the middle of the twelfth century, only four died a natural death. One of these was deposed, but saved his life by becoming a monk. The other three were the last in this catalogue ; and, in their time, some slight improvement had taken place in the manners

\* Lord Hailes' Annals, vol. 1. p. 104.

manners of the people, through the benign influence of Christianity. Of the first fifteen kings, fourteen fell in battle, or by the hand of the assassin. This dreadful picture stands in full view on the pages of Scottish history, and expressively marks the character of the people.

Although we are destitute of minute and particular information as to the civil institutions of those ages, yet we may deduce some knowledge of the state of society from the great and leading features of the times. The dethronement of kings, the frequent contests for the succession, and the repeated changes from one royal line to another, sufficiently evince the uncertainty of law; and that there was no fixed principle of justice existing among the people, powerful enough to direct their deliberations, or to guide their conduct. The frequent insurrections which took place in all parts of the country indubitably show, that the government was weak or disjointed, and that the Maormors or Chiefs possessed an authority, which was acknowledged in their respective districts, independent of the sovereign. The invasion of the Anglo-Saxons, and the consequences that ensued; the continued inroads of the Danes, and the obstinate valour with which they contended; the civil wars in the bosom of the country; and the frequent contests with the Northumbrians and English, evidently prove, that the inhabitants of Scotland were too much occupied with the business of war, to pursue the arts of agriculture and manufacture, in a manner that could much ameliorate their situation, or remove them to a dis-

tance from savage life. The atrocities they committed in warfare, by murdering the young and old, the weak and infirm, without mercy or distinction; the burning, havock, and devastation, that every where followed the tumultuary march of the Scottish armies, are palpable evidences of the barbarous manners of the people; and demonstrate, that they were alike strangers to the feelings of humanity, or the habits of civilized society.

During this period, learning was unknown, or only darkly studied in the cells of the monks, and the amount of their researches was confined to their legends, the lives of their saints and martyrs, and the worst part of the doctrines of the church of Rome. Some of them could read and a few could write, but the lamp of science glimmered with a feeble light that was invisible beyond the walls of the monastery. The little knowledge they possessed, was employed in recording what related to the church, and they have transmitted nothing as to the civil policy of the country. The absurdities which the monks then studied and taught, were deemed paramount to every thing that concerned worldly affairs. The science of legislation, by which the conduct and happiness of mankind are regulated and confirmed, was neglected for legendary lore. The principles of government, and the maxims of civil life, were neither studied nor understood; and their whole system of science was reduced to this simple position, that what *they* taught, comprehended all knowledge: and to *believe* their dogmas, ensured everlasting happiness in the world to come.

In such times the progress of intellect was tamely or imperceptible; but we have to thank these holy men, however, for the practical lessons they gave our forefathers in agriculture and architecture. They cultivated and improved their own lands, practised gardening\*, and erected buildings. Their example would naturally be imitated; and although they made frequent and heavy requisitions on the labour of the people, for the purpose of rearing those stately edifices which piety consecrated to the true God, yet the heads and the hands of men were better employed in the erection of such magnificent buildings, than in the bloody business of war. Some of these monuments of human industry still remain to attest the genius of the monks, and the zeal of our ancestors; and more would have remained, if the ferocity of the REFORMERS, at a time comparatively modern, had not wantonly destroyed them. But the malicious passions of men, in every age, have made the reformation of religion the ostensible excuse for the destruction of the temples consecrated to Divinity, as well as for every atrocity that the fury and madness of fanatics may have induced them to perpetrate.

In the period of which we are treating, the laity were wholly illiterate. At the demise of Donald, or down to the end of the eleventh century, the Gaelic was

\* To the monks we are indebted for the importation into Scotland, of the fruits of the continent, and all the improvements in horticulture, which were then known.

was the only spoken language of Scotland proper\*. From that time (1097), the Scoto-Saxon tongue gradually superseded the Scoto-Irish in the south and *lowlands* of Scotland; but for long after, it had not penetrated so far north as Aberdeen. Malcolm Canmore could neither read nor write, which shews, that learning was as little regarded in Northumberland, where he spent his early youth, as in Scotland. The nobles and laymen were accustomed to sign written deeds with the mark of the cross; and as the Gaelic never was a written language, and the only tongue they understood, it is hardly to be expected that they could write their names. The whole learning of those ages was confined to the clergy, who made no exertion to spread it, because they thought that their dominion over the minds of men was best maintained by the ignorance and superstition of the people. This fatal maxim, that obedience springs from ignorance, was not confined to the Papal Church, but pervaded all the civil governments of Europe, and has been the cause of innumerable calamities to mankind. If man be a rational creature, the improvement of his faculties will make him a wiser and better member of society; and as the sphere of his action is enlarged, he will discover that his own happiness is best promoted by the ready performance of his duty to his God and to his country.

## CHAPTER.

\* Chalmers's Caledon. vol. i. p. 481.

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## CHAPTER III.

### RELATIVE TO OLD ABERDEEN.

*(The Bishop's See and Cathedral.)*

FROM the obscurity of our records, we are uncertain of the precise time of the introduction of Christianity into Scotland; but that it took place at a very early period, is beyond all contradiction. About the middle of the sixth century (A. D. 565), Columba founded a monastery in Iona, which became the school of the Caledonian people. He sent instructors, and established monasteries throughout the Pictish territories; and the school of Iona was celebrated for several ages. Although denominated monks, they were regular clergy, and subjected to strict discipline. The abbot of Iona was the head of the Scottish church, until the establishment of the see of St. Andrews, by king Gregory, towards the close of the ninth century\*.

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\* Pinkerton, vol. ii. p. 270.

At that time, and for long after, the Papal church had not assumed any authority over the religious establishments of Scotland; and the different orders of ecclesiastics who afterwards deluged the country, were unknown. The bishops and abbots, with the culdees, or monks, constituted the whole of the religious orders of that period. John of Crema was the first legate who appeared in Scotland (anno 1126), with papal authority, and the dominion of the church of Rome gradually prevailed. Canons Regular supplanted the culdees, and various sorts of monastic orders were established during the twelfth century.

We have seen that Malcolm Canmore, in the year 1010, erected a bishop's seat at Mortlach, in commemoration of a victory he had gained over the Danes; but it was likely nothing more than a church of the rudest workmanship, with a house for the residence of the bishop, or officiating priest. This establishment, however, was endowed with the lands of Mortlach, Cloveth, and Dunmeth; and we are informed, that Beanus, or Beyn, was the first bishop, elected in 1010, and sat thirty-two years. He was succeeded by Donort a Barnoc, who died in 1098: sat forty-two years. Cormack, thirty-nine years. Nectan, sixteen. Alexander sat fourteen years at Mortlach, and in 1137 was transferred to the see of Old Aberdeen.

At that time Old Aberdeen was a small village, containing four ploughs of land, and had a little kirk where the cathedral now stands, dedicated to St. Machar. It appears from the date of the charter to Nectan, by David I. that the translation of the see of Mortlach



Mortlach to Aberdeen, took place in the year 1137, in the 13th year of his reign\* ; and Adrian IV. granted in 1154, a bull of confirmation. As the revenue of Mortlach was inconsiderable, the see of Aberdeen received additional and extensive endowments. The charter comprehends "the hail village of Old Aberdeen, half the water of North Sclattie, Goule-Muricroft, Kimmundy, Mameulach, and the kirk of Kirktown; the parish of Clatt; the parish of Daviot, Tillienestie; the parish of Raine; the tithe of the ships called *Snows*, which arrive at Aberdeen; the tithe of victual there; my own tithe of the revenues of Aberdeen; the tithe of the thanage-revenues and escheats belonging to me, within the sheriffdom of Aberdeen and Banff†.

It is uncertain when Nectanus died; but he was succeeded by Edward, who was bishop in the third year of Malcolm IV. Galfrid succeeded Edward, but both had died before the 11th of Malcolm; for we find a charter of confirmation by Malcolm to Matthew Kininmonth, bearing date at Striviling, the 20th August, eleventh year of his reign‡. By this charter the see received additional grants, viz. "the kirk of Fetterniel, with its lands and pertinents; the kirk of St. Nicolaus, of Aberdeen, with the pertinents; the land of Ellon, with the pertinents; the kirk of Auchterless, with the lands and pertinents; the kirk of Invercruden,

\* Keith's Catalogue of Bishops.

† Ossem, p. 8.

‡ Ibid, p. 15.

cathedral, consisted of a court of building, with a tower on each of the four corners, and contained a great hall, and chambers for his accommodation. The prebends and canons-regular had commodious lodgings, with large yards and gleibs. They were the bishop's chapter, or council, and he could do nothing relative to ecclesiastical affairs without them. They were therefore obliged to live near him, that they might be ready on all occasions to assist with their advice, or go about church matters. They were incumbents of churches in the country, but had curates under them, who performed the duties of their respective parishes. Those prebends, who were canons-regular, preached in the cathedral at the time of high festivals, and on the week days, gave lessons in divinity, and taught the canon and civil law previous to the erection of the university\*. In terms of an order from Pope Innocent IV. Bishop Ramsay, with consent of the dean and chapter, appointed thirteen prebends to the chanonry; and the bishop being one himself, presided over the others. The dean enjoyed considerable power, and was rector of the parish of St. Machar, and had a chaplain and clerk under him, who performed divine service to the parishioners; but in 1579 this office was annexed to the college, and the principal became dean†.

The parson of *Auchterless* was chantor, or chief musician, and rector of the music of the church. The instruction of the singing boys was his peculiar duty.

The

\* Orem, p. 27.

† Ibid.

The parson of Birse was chancellor of the bishop's chapter, and it belonged to him to correct books, and to keep the common seal of the church and chapter, and to perform the duties of librarian. He had also to provide a fit master for the school of Aberdeen, and to superintend the education of the boys in the science of grammar, &c.

The parson of Daviot was treasurer, and to his care was entrusted the money belonging to the church. It was his duty to cause the ornaments to be kept clean, and to provide candles for the church.

The parson of Raine was archdeacon, and it was his duty to go about the province, and correct the manners of the clergy; an office that was extremely necessary, and arduous in proportion to their number, and the magnitude of their vicious propensities. The sixth prebend was the parson of Belhelvie; the seventh, of Mortlach; the eighth was parson of Oyne, who was *protonotarius capituli*, or chief notary of the chapter. It was his duty to travel to Rome with commissions to the pope, and to bring instructions to the bishop and clergy of the chanonry. In consequence of his duty in this office, he was called *Rome-raker*\*, —a name sufficiently indicative of his business. The ninth prebend was the parson of Invercruden, or Cruden. The tenth, of Clatt. The eleventh, of Banchory-Devenick: and the twelfth, of Old Deer, who was made a prebend of the chanonry, by agreement

G

between

\* Orem, p. 32.

between the bishop and chapter, and the abbot of Deer\*.

Richard Pottach, who became bishop in 1256, joined the parson of Crimond to the chapter, in 1262; and Henry Cheyne, anno 1281, added four more prebends, viz. the parsons of Lonmay, of Aberdour, of Forbes, and of Ellon†. Alexander Kininmonth added the parson of Kincardine O'Neil to the chapter; and the second bishop of that name, joined other prebends, viz. the parsons of Invernochtye, of Philorth, of Methlick, of Tillienestle, and of Drumoak. Bishop Greenlaw added the parson of Turriff to the chapter; and bishop Henry Leighton joined the parson of Kinkell, who was a considerable man in the chapter, as he was parson of the following churches‡, viz. Kinkell, Kintore, Kinellar, Skeen, Kemnay, Dyce, and Drumblait. The parson of Cauldestanè was also added by Leighton; and his successor, bishop Lindsay, in 1441, joined the parson of Ruthven to the chapter; also, the recto of the church of Monymusk, for which purpose he obtained the consent of the bishop of St. Andrews: and the parsons of Logie-Buchan, and of Fettermier. Bishop Lindsay statuted and ordained, that annually one of the residing canons should be procurator-general, receiver, or collector, of all the fruits and revenue of the churches belonging to them, and make equal distribution of the proceeds among the prebendary canons, and render an account annually of his immissions to the chapter.

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\* Orem, p. 33.

† Ibid.

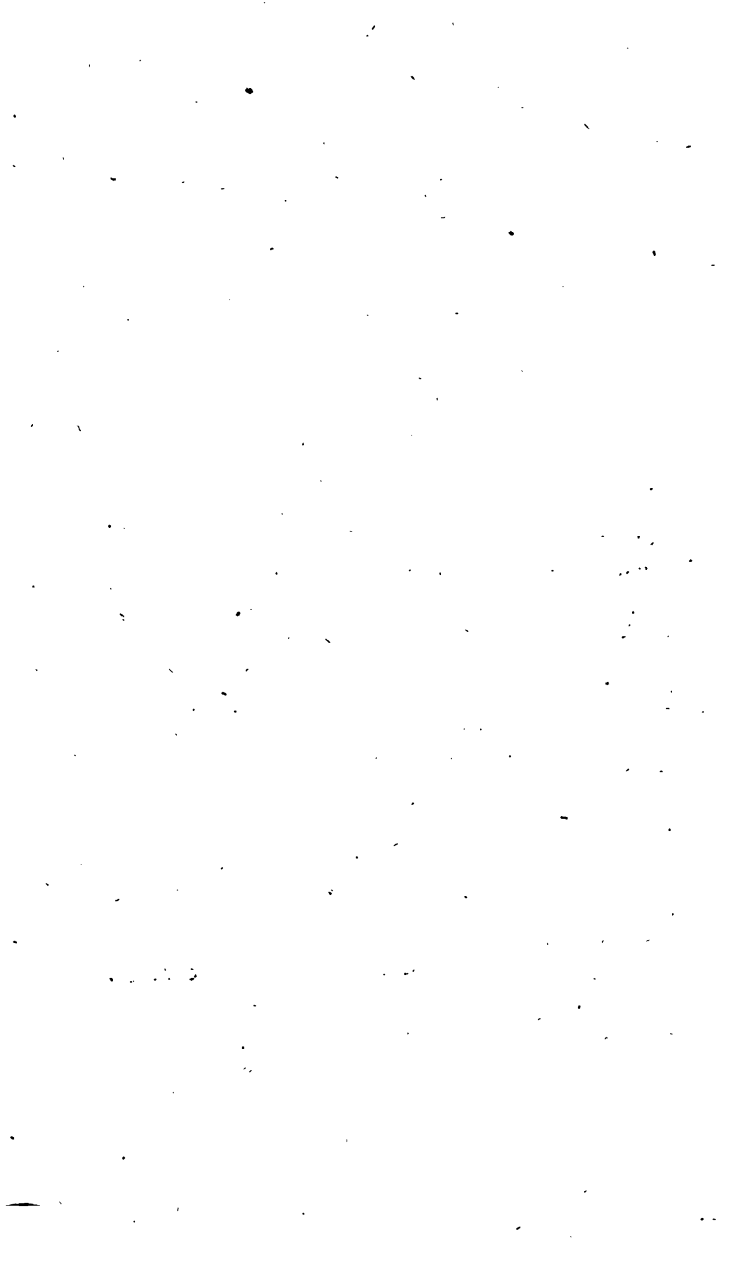
‡ Ibid, p. 38.

When any of the clergy committed a fault, or violated the laws enacted by the bishop, he was punished by penal mulct, or in any manner the dean and chapter thought proper. If fined, the one-half was applied to the fabric of the church, and the other to the repair of the ornaments. But if his fault was aggravated by any thing of a criminal or heinous nature, he was punished by excommunication. As the dean was set over all the canons and vicars, he exacted ready obedience from them. When he went into the chapter-house they stood up in the quire, and in absence of the bishop made obeisance to him when they retired, and otherwise treated him with great respect\*.

The whole rent of the bishoprick of Aberdeen, amounted in Scots money (estimating the victual at £4 : 3 : 4, Scots per boll), to £3519 : 3 : 8.

The foregoing account of the bishop's see, and cathedral of Old Aberdeen, is compiled from Orem's "Description of the Chanonry," which contains so full a history of every thing relative to that place, and is so widely circulated in this part of the country, that we deem it unnecessary to make any further extracts from it, but shall incidentally take notice of any thing of importance in it, that may be connected with the history of the New Town.

\* Orem, p. 40.



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## CHAPTER IV.

### CONTENTS.

[CHARTER OF ABERDEEN BY WILLIAM THE LION—HIS RESIDENCE—RED FRIARS—BISHOPS KININMONTH, JOHN, ADAM—ALEXANDER II. GRANTS A CHARTER TO ABERDEEN—DOMINICANS—BISHOPS SCOTT, STIRLINE, RANDOLF—CHARTER BY ALEXANDER III.—BISHOPS RAMSAY, POTTON, BENHAM—ABERDEEN A MART FOR FISH—BALIOL—BRUCE—WALLACE—EDWARD I.—ROBERT BRUCE—HIS RESIDENCE AT ABERDEEN—BATTLE OF INVERURY, AND THE TRANSACTIONS OF HIS REIGN—THE ENGLISH GARRISON OF ABERDEEN MASSACRED BY THE CITIZENS—BRUCE'S CHARTERS TO ABERDEEN—BISHOP-CHEYNE—BRIDGE OF DON—POPULATION OF SCOTLAND—PRICE OF PROVISIONS—COIN—OBSERVATIONS ON THE VALUE OF SPECIE, AND PRICE OF LABOUR.]

\* \* \* \*

**T**HE first charter granted to Aberdeen was given by William the Lion, and is beautifully written on a small piece of parchment, which is still in good preservation. It is very indefinite; and comprehends all the burgesses in Moray, and to the north of the *Month*, or Grampians, as well as those of Aberdeen. The following is copied from the original.

“ *Willielmus Dei gracia Rex Scottorum, omnibus probis*  
 “ *hominibus tocius terre sue Salutem. Sciatis presentes*  
 “ *et futuri, me concessisse et hac carta mea confirmasse,*  
 “ *Burgensibus meis de Abirdoen, et omnibus Burgensibus*  
 “ *meis de Moravia, et omnibus Burgensibus meis ex*  
 “ *aquilonali parte de MONTH manentibus, liberum*  
 “ *ausum \* suum, tenendum ut voluerint et quando vo-*  
 “ *luerint. Ita libere, integrè, plenarie, et honorifice, sicut*  
 “ *antecessores eorum tempore Regis Malcolumbi, avi mei,*  
 “ *ausum suum liberior, et honorificentius, habuerunt.*  
 “ *Quare prohibeo firmiter, ne quis eos inde vexet, aut dis-*  
 “ *turbet, supra meam plenariam foris facturam†. Testibu*  
 “ *Andrea Episcopo Katenensi. Comite Dunecano Justicia*  
 “ *rio, Gilberto Comite de St-hern, Comite de Anegus, Ra-*  
 “ *cardo de Morevill constabulario Waltero de Berkelai Co-*  
 “ *merario, Comite de egalvill, Hugone Bissard, Malis-*  
 “ *fratre comitis de St.-h.—Apud Pert.”*

As there is no date mentioned in this charter, we cannot fix the precise time at which it was granted. But from certain circumstances we have reason to think it was given about the year 1178, or the 13th of William's reign. Andrew, bishop of Caithness, died in 1184†, and as he is a witness to this charter, it is evident

\* *Ausen*, Latine, *Aurum*. Privilegium ad mercaturam transmarique faciendam.—*Vide Tilium, et Shelmannum.*

† *Supra meam plenariam foris facturam*, signifies literally, “pain of becoming an outlaw, and being held as a rebel.”

‡ Keith's Catalogue of Bishops, p. 122.



evident it must have been granted previous to that year. The charter to the abbey of Aberbrothick was granted in 1178, to which Andrew is also a witness\* ; and it is probable that both charters were given at the same time. *Walter de Berkley*, who is another witness to this charter, was appointed *Chamberlain* in 1165, and was one of those who returned with William to Scotland, about the close of the year 1174†. In the year 1179, William marched with a large army into Ross-shire, to quell an insurrection in that district†; and it is probable that he had granted the charters to *Aberdeen*, and the abbey of *Aberbrothick*, in the latter end of the year 1178, when he was collecting his army at Perth. It is by such circumstances, in the absence of dates, that we are enabled to approach, or to determine the precise æra of events in those dark ages.

It is impossible to ascertain the amount of the population, or the extent of the trade or commerce of Aberdeen, at the period William the Lion granted this charter; but that it was comparatively a place of some consequence, is pretty evident. By David's charter to the bishop of Aberdeen, of date 1187, "*the tithes of the ships called Snows, which arrive at Aberdeen,*" is conveyed

\* Keith's Cat. p. 122.      † Annals, vol. i. p. 134.

† William was taken prisoner by the barons of Yorkshire, in 1174, before Alnwick Castle, and was sent for greater security to Falaise in Normandy. He obtained his liberty by surrendering the independency of the nation, and becoming the liegeman of Henry, for Scotland, and all his other territories.—*Annals*, vol. i. p. 130.

veyed to him as a part of the revenue of the see ; and the same grant is confirmed by William the Lion. This circumstance certainly implies the arrival of ships at the port of Aberdeen, and that the inhabitants carried on some sort of trade ; but, if we except grain or provisions, we can scarcely conjecture what kind of commodities were imported and exported. In the course of his long reign, William went three times to the northern districts of Scotland, at the head of large armies, to quell insurrections among his turbulent subjects\* ; and we may believe that he occasionally visited Aberdeen. It is said, indeed, that he built a house on St. Catherine's Hill, in which he resided for a considerable time ; and erected a chapel on the site of the Trinity church, which he bestowed on the order of Red Friars, giving them at the same time, the lands of *Banchory, Coway, Merellof*, a fishing in *Dee* and *Don*, with the mills *Skerthak, Rothenny, Tillifully*, and *Monismuch*†. We are certain, however, that many of his charters were dated at Aberdeen, at different periods, which sufficiently establishes, that he either frequently visited the town, or resided for some years within its boundaries.

Long before this period a church had been erected in Aberdeen, which was dedicated to St. Nicolas ; and it is included in David's charter to bishop Nectanus. As no other is mentioned in that charter, we must suppose that it was the only church in Aberdeen at that time,

\* Buchanan, Hollinshed, Annals, &c.

† Keith's Catal. p. 242.

time, and established for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the town, previous to the æra of the episcopal see.

At the beginning of William's reign, Mathew Kinmonth was bishop of Aberdeen, and died about the year 1197. He was succeeded by John, prior of Kelso, who died 1206 or 7; and Adam, who succeeded John, died in 1227, according to Hector Boece\*.

King William, after a long and lingering illness, died at Stirling, the 4th December, 1214, being in the seventy-second year of his age, and forty-ninth of his reign†. He was succeeded by his son, Alexander II., a youth of 17, who was crowned at Scone, 10th December, the same year‡.

Alexander II. granted a charter to the burgesses of Aberdeen, in 1217, in which he bestows the same privileges as he had given to the town of Perth. It confines the whole trade of buying and selling in the shire of Aberdeen, to the burgesses of the town. It farther appoints all cloth made in the county, to be sold in the town; and permits none to be manufactured in the county, except between the feast of Ascension, and "ad Vincula Sti. Petri;" and permits no shops or taverns (*tabernas*) in any village, but when the lord of the village is *Miles*, and resides there himself; and even in that case only *one taberna* is allowed. Alexander founded a convent of Dominicans, or Black Friars,

\* Keith's Catal. p. 62, 68.

† Annals, vol. i. p. 154.

‡ Ibid, p. 157.

Friars\*, as they were called, which became very considerable; and their church was situated near that of St. Nicolas, where the east church now stands, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist†. The followers of St. Dominic are represented as being men of loose or immoral habits, and addicted to “vicious living‡.” But John Adamson, doctor of divinity in the university of Aberdeen, and cotemporary with Hector Boece, undertook the arduous task of reforming them, which our historian says he accomplished||. These friars, however, were held in high estimation for the efficacy of their prayers, by David II. who grants to them “*centum solidorum annuatim ex baronia de Banchorry-de-veny*” in the shire of Aberdeen, “*pro anima Margarete de Logy, Dilectæ Nostræ*,” as the king was pleased to style her in the charter which is dated at Aberdeen, 20th January, in the year 1361§, being the thirty-third of his reign. They also had received grants from several pious persons, viz. from Adam, a burghess of Aberdeen, so early as the year 1271, *quatuor perticatas terræ, quæ terra nunc dicitur Madercroft*: From Annabella de Lydall, daughter and heiress of Peter Kennedy, several tenements in the city of Aberdeen: this charter is dated the 10th August, 1381. And from Elisabeth Gareauch, Domina de Tuligonis, twenty pounds

\* Annals, vol. i. p. 177.

† Keith's Catal. p. 271.      ‡ Hollinhead, vol. i. p. 394.

|| Hollinhead, vol. i. p. 394.

§ Robertson's Index to Charters, p. 72.—See also on this subject, Keith's Catalogue, p. 271.

pounds Scots money, annually, from her lands of *Tu-  
lgon*, in the county of Aberdeen, which charter is  
dated 1st May, 1490\*.

King Alexander II. who had been several times in  
Aberdeen, as indicated by the dates of various char-  
ters, died anno 1249, in the island of Kerary, the 8th  
July, in the fifty-first year of his age, and thirty-fifth  
of his reign†. During his time, Mathew Scott, arch-  
deacon of St. Andrews, and chancellor of the kingdom,  
was postulated bishop of the see of Aberdeen, but death  
prevented his consecration: Gilbert de Stryvelin, or  
Stirlin, succeeded in 1228, and died ten years after.  
Randolf, *alias* Rodulfus de Lambley, succeeded Gilbert  
in 1238. He was abbót of the monastery of Aberbro-  
thick, and is represented to have been a man of singu-  
lar piety, who travelled on foot through his extensive  
diocese, and all his life rigidly adhered to the spare  
diet and austere habits to which he had been accus-  
tomed in the cloister. He died anno 1247‡.

Alexander III. ascended the throne on the 13th July,  
1249, in the 8th year of his age||. He granted a char-  
ter to the town of Aberdeen, dated at Kyntor, the 8th  
December, twenty-fourth of his reign, anno 1273; in  
which

\* In the year 1244, and thirtieth of Alexander's reign, the  
town of Aberdeen was consumed, as we are informed, by acci-  
dental fire; and also Haddington, Roxburgh, Lanark, Stirling,  
Perth, Forfar, and Montrose. That such a number of towns  
should have been burnt *by accident* in one year, is incredible.

† Annals, vol. i. p. 176.

‡ Keith's Cat. p. 68.

|| Annals, vol. i. p. 178.

which he allows the burgesses to have fairs, or markets (*"ut habeant mundinas"*), for two weeks after Trinity\*. Alexander also granted a charter of protection to the burgesses of Aberdeen, dated at Kincardyn, 27th January, twenty-eighth year of his reign (1277). As the king made frequent journies through Scotland, for the purpose of correcting abuses, and holding courts of justice, it is probable that he granted the former charter when travelling through the kingdom; for it does not appear that there was any royal residence at that time at Kintore.

Alexander III. died the 16th March, 1285-6, in the forty-fifth year of his age, and thirty-seventh of his reign. He was thrown from his horse over a precipice, between Burntisland and Kinghorn, and killed on the spot†.

In the time of Alexander III. Aberdeen was a considerable mart for fish. It appears that Edward I. preparatory to his expedition against Wales, sent people into Scotland to purchase fish for the use of his army, and Adam de Fuleham was appointed to provide 100 barrels of salmon, and 5000 salt fish, and also dry fish. The fish of Aberdeen were then in high repute, and so well cured, that they formed an article of valuable export to England. In 1290, the ship that  
was

\* According to Chalmers (*Caledon.* vol. i. p. 788), there was a windmill at Aberdeen before the year 1271, which shews that the mechanic arts had made considerable progress at that time in this country.

† Annals, vol. i. p. 201.

was sent to bring over the infant queen of Norway to Scotland, was furnished with the fish part of the provisions from Aberdeen, which consisted of 400 salmon, 200 stock-fish, one small barrel of sturgeons, five dozen of lampreys, 50 pounds of whale, and half a last of herrings. The fish of Aberdeen (salmon) cost three pennies each; the stock-fish somewhat under one penny each; and the half-last of herrings, 30 shillings\*.

In the reign of Alexander III. Peter de Ramsay was bishop of Aberdeen. He was previously a monk of Aberbrothick, and died anno 1256. He appears to have been a man of considerable consequence. In 1250 he procured a bull from Pope Innocent IV. allotting to each vicarage within the diocese of Aberdeen, a stipend of 15 merks of silver; but this grant excited the envy of the abbots of Aberbrothick and Lindorfs, who termed it exorbitant and oppressive. They appealed to the pope, and obtained a reversal of the ordinance†. Richard de Potton succeeded, and lived until the year 1267†. Hugh de Benham succeeded Richard. He was son of Hugh Benham, of that ilk (or *Benholm*, as now spelt), in the county of Kincardine. He died in 1279, at Lochgoul, the residence of the bishops of Aberdeen‡. Henry de Cheyn, of Duffus, succeeded Benham, in 1281, and the events of his life shall be afterwards noticed.

From the death of Margaret, grand-daughter of Alexander III. till the decision of Edward I. of England,

\* *Mr Pherson's Annals of Commerce*, vol. i. p. 436.

† *Keith's Catal.* p. 64.

‡ *Ibid*, p. 65.

England, in favour of John Baliol, in the year 1292, the people of Scotland were occupied with the disputes of the rival candidates for the crown\*. Baliol was crowned at Scone, the 30th November, 1292, (St. Andrew's day†). He made a feeble attempt to restore the independence of the country, or, at least, to relieve it from the degrading influence of Edward, by dismissing all the Englishmen whom he had maintained at his court‡. But a fatal alliance with Philip, king of France, into which Baliol imprudently entered in 1295, occasioned a series of wars, in which the best blood of Scotland was shed; and induced a train of calamities that were only terminated by the intrepidity and persevering valour of Robert, the grandson of the competitor, Bruce, after a bloody contest with England, which continued for more than thirty years, with various success; when finally, the English government was obliged to acknowledge the independence of Scotland§.

In terms of the treaty with Philip, the Scots invaded Cumberland, 26th March, 1296; but were repulsed in this, as well as in another attempt, on the 8th April||; and Edward, in return, penetrated into Scotland, by the eastern borders, with a numerous and well appointed

\* The dean of Aberdeen was one of the forty commissioners on the part of Robert Bruce, who were appointed to examine the claims of the competitors in 1291, and to make a report to Edward.

† Annals, vol. i. p. 243.

‡ Ibid, p. 256.

§ The E. Par. at York, 1st March, 1328.—*Chalmers*, p. 819.

|| Annals, vol. i. p. 257.



pointed army. He marched with such rapidity that the fate of Baliol and of his country was decided on the 28th April, at Dunbar\*. The Scots, who occupied the commanding heights in the neighbourhood of that place, left their strong position, and tumultuously poured down on the English. They were received with firmness, repulsed, broken, and dispersed. All the fortified places in Scotland now surrendered to Edward, as there was no army to oppose him. Baliol implored the mercy of the conqueror, and renounced his liberty and his crown, on the 2d July, at Brechin, or, according to some historians, in Kincardineshire†. Edward penetrated to Elgin in Moray‡, but soon returned to Berwick upon Tweed, and held a parliament on the 28th of August, where he received the fealty of the clergy and laity of Scotland§. He had left troops in all the important and defensible places in the kingdom; and to overawe the inhabitants of Aberdeen and the north, had placed a strong garrison in that town.

The tranquillity of the kingdom, however, was of short duration. The spirit of the Scots was as yet unbroken. The presence of the conqueror intimidated the people, but their love of independence was not extinct; and a desultory warfare was commenced by the intrepid WILLIAM WALLACE. The exploits of this valiant captain are recorded in a metrical romance, with much exaggeration. But, divesting his history of the

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embellish-

\* Annals, vol. i. p. 261.

† Ibid, 264.

‡ Ibid, 265.

§ Ibid, 266.

embellishments of the poet, we may believe, for it is well authenticated, that he once more set Scotland free. In May, 1297, he attacked the English quarters, at the head of a resolute band. Sir William Douglas joined him, and they attempted to surprise Ormsby, the justiciary, at Scone, where he held his courts, but he escaped by flight\*. After this bold assault on the centre of government, the Scots roved over the country, and massacred all Englishmen who unfortunately fell into their hands. They also besieged castles, and attacked the enemy in their strong holds†. Forfar, Brechin, and Montrose, fell into their hands, and their garrisons were put to the sword. Wallace got possession of the castle of Dunnottar by surprise, and killed all those whom he found in it‡. He then marched to Aberdeen; and it is said § by Buchanan and Abercromby||, that he saw it all in a flame; the English having burned the town which they had previously plundered, and then retired to the citadel. Hollinshed, however, only mentions that he found the town deserted by the inhabitants, and the castle so strongly garrisoned, that it could not be won without a great sacrifice of men; which he did not then deem it expedient to make, and accordingly returned into Angus||. The burning of the town at this time, is  
extremely

\* Annals, vol. i. p. 270.

† Ibid.

‡ Hollinshed, vol. i. p. 421.

§ Buchanan's History of Scotland, vol. i. p. 292.

|| Martial Atchievements, vol. ii. p. 238.

¶ Hollinshed, vol. i. p. 421.

extremely doubtful. Buchanan and Abercromby generally follow the fables of Boece, who never hesitated about an assertion, although inconsistent with probability, or altogether destitute of foundation. The progress of the English army in the south of Scotland unquestionably called Wallace from the siege of the citadel of Aberdeen, and with his usual rapidity he retreated to Dundee.

From success, the Scottish army acquired strength, and Wallace was joined by many potent and respectable men, who united their fortune to that of this champion of his country's rights\*. The whole strength of the patriotic party assembled at Irvine to oppose the English in battle, and at once to decide the destiny of Scotland; but distrust and suspicion engendered disunion, and all the powerful associates of Wallace submitted to the English, with the exception of Sir Andrew Murray of Bothwell†.

The people had either more spirit, or were more impatient of submission than their chiefs; and the gallant army under Wallace and Sir Andrew, daily increased‡. The castle of Dundee was besieged; but Wallace learning that the English were advancing to Stirling, left the blockade of that fortress to the care of the citizens, and marched to guard the passes of the Forth. He met them at the bridge of Stirling, and overthrew their numerous army. The victory was complete; the English were panic-struck, abandoned their baggage, and fled

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\* Annals, vol. i. p. 273.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid, 274.

fled precipitately to Berwick. Wallace had to deplore the loss of Sir Andrew Murray, whose life, at this critical time, was of more value to his country than a whole army\*.

The surrender of the castle of Dundee, and the other strong places in Scotland, was the consequence of the victory at Stirling: and Wallace marched into England, which he ravaged for three weeks, and then retreated†. The English army assembled at Berwick, in spring 1298, under the animating presence of their sovereign. A detached body landed in Fife, but were routed by Wallace, on the 12th June, 1298, at the forest of *Black Ironside*‡. Edward approached with a mighty host by the eastern frontiers, and established his head-quarters at Temple-liston, between Edinburgh and Linlithgow. The Scots advanced to Falkirk. Edward attacked them. They were routed and dispersed, notwithstanding the skill and valour of Wallace.

The scarcity of provisions obliged Edward to retire from Scotland, which he did by the western borders. The cruel policy of devastating the country, which so generally prevailed in those barbarous ages, frequently compelled the conquering army to retreat, by denying it the means of subsistence; and such was the case with Edward on this occasion. He retired to Carlisle, where he held a parliament; and to reward his followers, bestowed on them the estates of many Scottish lords. In 1299, William Lamberton, bishop of St. Andrews, Robert

\* Annals, vol. i. p. 276.

† Ibid, 278.

‡ Ibid, 280.

bert Bruce, of Carrick, and John Comyn, the younger, were chosen guardians of Scotland\*. Wallace was now deprived of any command in the armies, or influence in the councils of his country. The castle of Stirling was besieged by the guardians, and Edward hastened to succour it; but his army, which had assembled at Berwick, refused to advance, and Stirling capitulated†. In summer, 1300, Edward invaded Scotland by the western marches; but his expedition terminated in wasting Annandale. A truce was concluded between the nations, 30th October, 1300, to continue till Whitsunday, 1301, and in the meantime, both parties prepared for war.

At the expiration of the truce, John de Segrave was sent into Scotland, with an army which he conducted in three divisions as far as Edinburgh. The Scots attacked and routed them in detail‡. But Edward being now relieved from the pressure of the war with France, bent the whole force of his kingdom against Scotland, into which he marched with a mighty army, in May 1303§. The Scots were unable to resist him, and he over-ran the country. The castle of Brechin was defended by the intrepid Sir Thomas Maule, who checked his progress for a short time||; but he reached Aberdeen by the 24th August, where he remained for ten days¶. He was at Banff on the 4th September; at  
Kinloss

\* Annals, vol. i. p. 291.

† Ibid, 292, 293.

‡ Ibid, 299.

§ Ibid, 302.

|| Ibid. 303.

¶ Chalmers's Caledonia, vol. . p. 670.

Kinloss in Moray, on the 9th, where he remained a month; at Kildrummy, on the 8th of October; and thence he went again to Kinloss, on the 10th; but returning southward, he was at Dundee on the 20th of October.

The only fortress that now stood out against the power of Edward, was the castle of Stirling, and to protect it, Comyn collected all his forces, which he posted on the south bank of the river, in the vicinity of that place. The wary Edward crossed at a ford at some distance from them—turned their left, and they were dispersed\*. Bruce and Comyn, with their followers, now submitted, and stipulated only for their lives, liberties, and estates. But the castle of Stirling was still defended by the brave Sir William Oliphant, who was obliged, however, to surrender at discretion, on the 20th July, 1304, after a vigorous siege of three months†. Robert Bruce, the son of the competitor, died about this time; and to his son, the earl of Carrick, Edward gave sasine of the lordship of Annandale. Wallace, who had retired from active life, to seek repose in the security of concealment, was discovered—carried to London, and after a mock trial, executed on the 23d August, 1305‡. Edward now proceeded to settle and arrange the affairs of Scotland, as a province of England§. He established sheriffs in the different districts, and Norman de Lesly was appointed to the  
sheriff-

\* Annals, vol. i. p. 304.

† Ibid, p. 310.

† Ibid, p. 308.

§ Ibid, p. 311.

sheriffdom of Aberdeen\*. After a long, obstinate, and bloody contest, Scotland was thus subjected to the dominion of England. Within a few months, however, the English system was overthrown, and the sword was again unsheathed to assert the independence of the country.

Robert Bruce, the grandson of Bruce the competitor with Baliol, claimed the throne of his ancestors, which he ascended on the 27th March, 1306, and was crowned at Scone†. His first enterprise was undertaken against Perth; but he was disappointed, and his army dispersed, on the 19th June, by the English, under Pembroke, the guardian. The king retired to the mountains of Athole with the remains of his troops‡. After enduring many privations and hardships, they came to Aberdeen, where Robert met his wife, and many other ladies, the wives and daughters of his followers, whom his brother Nigel had collected, and conducted thither§. The approach of the English obliged them to retire from Aberdeen, and their ladies accompanied them in their route across the mountains, to Breadalbane. They were conveyed on horseback, and the whole party were often in great distress from the scarcity of provisions. According to Barbour (p. 39), Sir James Douglas, in the true spirit of gallantry, took charge of these faithful dames. He caught trout, eels, and salmon, and killed venison, to afford them subsistence. When the king  
had

\* Annals, vol. i. p. 314.

† Ibid, p. 7.

‡ Ibid, vol. ii, p. 1.

§ Ibid, p. 8.

had reached the borders of Argyle, he was attacked by the lord of Lorn\*. A fierce combat ensued on the 11th August, and Robert's party were overpowered. The royalists had hitherto supported themselves by hunting and fishing; but the approach of winter denied them all hopes of subsisting themselves longer in that manner; and the queen, with the other ladies, was sent to Kildrummy Castle in Marre, under the protection of Nigel, and all the horsemen. The king, Sir James Douglas, and a few of their followers, after suffering innumerable hardships, escaped to the island of *Rachrin*, where they remained in safety.

The queen and her daughter, dreading the consequence of a siege in Kildrummy Castle, took shelter in the sanctuary of St. Duthac, at Tain, in Ross-shire; but the earl of Ross violated a retreat that was held sacred by law and religion, and delivered the unfortunate wife and daughter of Bruce to the English†. The castle of Kildrummy was besieged by the earls of Lancaster and Hereford. The magazine was burned, and the garrison surrendered at discretion. Nigel, the king's brother, was carried a prisoner to Berwick, and beheaded; and many others of the king's partizans suffered capitally‡.

During winter, Bruce made no effort to regain his kingdom; but in spring, he arrived on the coast of Carrick, and with about 300 followers, attacked the English at Turnberry, and put them to the sword§.

His

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 8.

† Ibid, p. 10.

‡ Ibid, p. 16.

§ Ibid, p. 21.



His faithful friend, Douglas, with a few of his vassals, surprised the castle of Douglas, and slew the English garrison who defended it, on the 19th March, 1306-7. Bruce defeated the earl of Pembroke; and three days after, routed Ralph de Monthermer with great slaughter, and compelled him to seek shelter in the castle of Ayr\*. Edward I. died the 7th July, 1307, on the frontiers of Scotland, and the prosecution of the war now devolved on his son and successor, Edward II. who marched to Cumnock, on the borders of Ayrshire, and then returned to England. Bruce and his friends considered this inglorious retreat as auspicious to their cause, and invaded Galloway; but the guardian defeated them, and Bruce retired to the north of Scotland†. He surprised the castle of Inverness; and all the strong holds in the north fell into his hands. His army now daily increased in numbers, in spirit, and in courage. On the 25th December, 1307, the earl of Buchan, with a numerous body of English and Scots, met him in Glenesk: but on the approach of Bruce they fled, and he returned to Aberdeent‡. At this time the king was seized with a distemper that nearly proved fatal. His strength gradually decayed, and that bold enterprising spirit which had surmounted so many difficulties, was enfeebled by a disease that had broken down his constitution, and rendered him entirely unfit for military operations for five months. It is said that he resided in a house in the Green, and that

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 29.

† Abercromby, vol. ii. p. 306.

‡ Ibid, p. 307.

that the inhabitants furnished him with large supplies of money and provisions.

John Comyn, the earl of Buchan, and the English commander, Moubay, to retrieve the disgrace of their defeat in Gloneak, collected a numerous body of men to dispute the field once more with Bruce\*. His bad state of health encouraged the partizans of the English interest; and reports were industriously spread that he was in no situation to head his army. In this, however, they were mistaken; for, weak as he was, he possessed a dauntless spirit, and knew well the importance of his personal appearance on the scene of action. The enemy were stationed at the village of Inverury, and Bruce accompanied his army on a litter, but he mounted on horseback before he came in view, and gave the necessary directions for the attack. The one army was as much animated, as the other was dismayed, by the presence of Bruce, and a bloody conflict ensued on the 22d May, 1306, which terminated in the total defeat of Buchan's and Moubay's forces. They were pursued for many miles with great slaughter; and tradition reports, that the happy issue of the day, conjoined to the exercise he had taken, entirely restored the king to health. In a fierce age, the maxims of humanity are generally disregarded; and Bruce cruelly wasted the territories of the earl of Buchan†.

About this time the citizens of Aberdeen stormed and carried the fortress of the city, which stood on the castle-

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 27.

† Ibid.

castle-hill. They massacred the English garrison, and levelled the fortifications with the ground. The English troops assembled from different quarters in the neighbourhood, and marched against the town. The citizens encountered and overthrew them; and the prisoners taken in the conflict, were cruelly put to death. The deliberate murder of those whom the chance of war had thrown into the power of the victors, shews the barbarity of the times. The good and pious canons of Aberdeen endeavoured to save the lives of the prisoners; but the voice of humanity calls in vain amidst the tumults of war, and the distractions of civil discord. The notions of the age were superstitious; and all the indulgence the holy men could obtain in favour of the sufferers, was permission to inter their lifeless bodies in the consecrated ground of St. Nicolas' church\*.

The affairs of Bruce now assumed a more favourable aspect; and many who before were attached to the English interest, ranged themselves under the banners of the king. After various rencounters, battles, and sieges, during six years of desultory warfare, he obtained almost entire possession of the kingdom†. The castle of Stirling was the only strong fortress that held out; and to relieve a place so important, Edward II. invaded Scotland with a mighty army, in June 1314. Bruce waited his approach on a field between Stirling and Bannockburn; the former being on his left, the latter

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on

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 28.

† Ibid. p. 31.

on his fight. The English army was five times more numerous than that of the Scottish. Edward steadily advanced in all the confidence of victory ; and Bruce resolutely maintained his position, determined to conquer or die. A long, a desperate, and bloody battle ensued. The Scots triumphed. The English were completely routed ; and Edward precipitately fled to Dunbar, and thence by sea to Bamburgh in Northumberland\*. The castle of Stirling surrendered ; and the consequences of this victory were most important. It fixed the crown on the head of Bruce, and decisively secured the independence of Scotland†. The wife and daughter of the king, who had been detained prisoners in England since the time they were betrayed and delivered into the hands of Edward I. by the earl of Ross, were exchanged for the earl of Hereford.

The affairs of Scotland were now so prosperous, that Bruce was in a situation to invade England ; and he accordingly carried the war into the country of his enemy. In the following year, the Scots again ravaged the borders, and besieged Carlisle. In June 1316, Bruce conducted a reinforcement into Ireland, to support his brother's pretensions to the crown of that kingdom‡. He returned from that fruitless expedition about the beginning of the year 1317, and on 28th March, 1318, took Berwick by stratagem§. Two incursions into England followed this event.

\* This battle was fought on the 24th June, 1314.

† *Annals*, vol. ii. p. 49, *et seq.* ‡ *Ibid.* 76. § *Ibid.* 89.

event. To recover Berwick, Edward assembled a powerful army, in July 1319, at Newcastle upon Tyne, with which he marched northward in August, and sat down before that celebrated fortress. In the language of war, the Scots made a *diversion* to relieve Berwick, and accordingly entered England by the western marches; which had the effect expected, and the English retreated. In December, a truce was concluded between the two nations, to endure until Christmas 1319, which gave a respite for a short time to the miseries of both countries\*.

In December 1320, Robert was at Berwick; and remembering the kindness of the citizens of Aberdeen, when he remained so long among them in a state of indisposition, at the time his affairs were at the lowest, and fortune was frowning upon him, he granted them a charter, confirming all their privileges, and bestowing on the community the forest of Stocket. This charter is dated at Berwick upon Tweed, the 10th December, and fourteenth year of his reign, anno 1320; and besides the forest of Stocket, he conveys a right to the fishings, mills, customs, tolls, &c. to the burgesses, their heirs and successors, for ever, upon payment of £213 : 6 : 8, annually, at two terms of the year. In 1324, he granted another charter to the burgesses, allowing them the assize of ale†, and liberty to catch

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red,

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 104.

† Ale was the common beverage of the people of Scotland.  
long.

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*red*, as well as white fishes. He gave another charter, confirming the town's rights, privileges, customs, &c., dated at Carrick, 6th February, 1329; and also a charter of the same tenor, dated Galloway, 16th March, of that year.

When the truce expired, the Scots made an incursion into England\*; and in the following year, Edward advanced to Edinburgh; but famine obliged him to return. The Scots pursued the English as far as York. In June 1323, a truce was concluded between the two countries, to endure until 12th June, 1336; but the Scots infringed the truce, and on the 15th June, invaded England with a numerous army under Douglas and Randolph, who returned to Scotland, after wasting the borders, and eluding a more powerful force commanded by Edward III. in person. In April 1328, the peace of Northampton was concluded†, and the right of Robert to the crown of Scotland, fully acknowledged, after a bloody contest of more than twenty years. The supremacy of England was renounced, and Scotland became again a free and independent kingdom. The illustrious defender of the rights of his country, died on the 7th June,

long before this period. In every town, village, and hamlet, there were brew-houses or alehouses, which were regulated by an assize so early as in the time of David I.—*Chalmers*, p. 804.

The kings of Scotland had malt-mills in every town, which were a source of revenue, and they frequently gave grants of these mills to the church, to corporations, or families.—*Ibid.* 788.

\* *Annals*, vol. ii. p. 116, *et seq.*

† *Ibid.* p. 141.

June, 1329, at Cardross, in the twenty-third year of his reign, and fifty-fifth of his age. His remains were interred in the choir of Dunfermline, near those of his consort\*; and his memory is indelibly engraven on the hearts of all true patriots.

During the reign of Robert, the bishop's see of Aberdeen was filled by Henry de Chen, or Cheyn, of whom we previously took some notice. He was elected bishop, anno 1281, and was one of those who swore fealty to Edward I.† As he had connected himself with the faction of the Comyns, he fled to England for safety, when their affairs became desperate; but the generosity of Robert Bruce restored him to his see, and no man was more deserving of the high and sacred office which he held. When he returned to Aberdeen, he diligently employed himself in correcting abuses, and redressing grievances. During his absence, the rents of the see had accumulated to a considerable sum, which he appropriated to the erection of a work that has perpetuated his memory, and justly entitles him to the gratitude of posterity. He applied the emoluments of his office to build the bridge of Don, which was probably finished about the year 1320, or the fourteenth of king Robert's reign. He died anno 1329, having been forty-eight years in possession of the episcopate.

In the time of Alexander III. the population of Scotland.

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\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 146.

† Keith's Catal. p. 65.

land was estimated at 600,000 souls; and it is probable that the number was not much increased during the long contest with England. There was certainly a great waste of human life in these long and destructive wars with the Edwards: but the population of any country depends upon the quantity of subsistence, as the abundance of food will induce an increase of numbers, in a ratio that doubles in fifteen years. Agriculture had made some progress during that period, through the example or commands of the clergy; and we may believe, that the population of Scotland had gradually increased from the time of Alexander III. to the demise of Robert Bruce. The value of provisions, as regulated by their price in the current coin, may afford some criterion for ascertaining the scarcity or abundance of the necessaries of life; and by such a rule we may determine the probable diminution or increase of the population of any country, especially in an age when manufactures and commerce were unknown. In the year 1300, wheat was sold for seven and eight shillings per quarter; wheat-flour, at six shillings; oats, at three and sixpence; malt, at three and sixpence; beans, five and sixpence: Beer, per butt, from eight to sixteen shillings; carcases of oxen, five shillings to six and eightpence; and hogs, from three shillings to three and ninepence each\*. When we consider that the coin of Scotland was then three times the weight of our present standard, there being only

\* Chalmers, vol. i. p. 805.



only twenty-one shillings in a pound weight of silver then, of which we now make sixty-three shillings; and that the power of money over the necessities of life was fully sixteen times more than at the present day\*, we shall find, that provisions were as high in price at the close of the thirteenth, as at the beginning of the nineteenth century. This circumstance establishes two points: First, That specie as a circulating medium, will always bear a price in the market, in proportion to its abundance or scarcity; and, secondly, That its *value* in every stage of society, is determined by its power over the *labour* or industry of man. For example: if one penny was the wages of a labourer per day, during the fourteenth century, we must deem it equivalent to two shillings sterling, which is the present rate of wages; because the two shillings now will purchase no more labour or provisions than one penny would have done at that period; or in other words, both being the compensation for an equal quantity of industry, the difficulty of obtaining the one or the other, is the same, and their value therefore must be commensurate. From this doctrine we may deduce an important corollary, which is, that the difficulty of living,

\* According to Sir George Shuckburgh Evelyn's estimate of the value of money, in the years 1100 and 1800, the one is to the other as 34 to 562; or anno 1100, it was 16 one-third times greater than in the year 1800. But at that period, the coin was three times the weight that it is now, which makes it 49 times more; or, in other words, one pound then had the same power over the necessities of life, as 49 pounds could now have.

or the pressure of human calamity, has been much the same at all periods, and in all stages of society; and that it is in vain philosophers speculate on the *perfectibility* of man, which never was, and never can be realized, but is merely a chimera in the imagination of the enthusiast. For the established laws of nature have equipoised the material system, and thus rendering the exertion of man proportionate to his wants, have reduced his life to a constant succession of good and evil, alternately operating upon him by cause and effect, which no human ingenuity, or moral perfection, can either alter or avoid.

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## CHAPTER V.

### CONTENTS.

[INVASION BY EDWARD BALIOL—INVASION BY EDWARD III.—THE KING AND HIS CONSORT CONVEYED TO FRANCE—QUARREL AMONG THE BARONS—BALIOL'S RETREAT TO ENGLAND—EDWARD INVADES SCOTLAND—CONCLUDES A TREATY—SIR ANDREW MURRAY APPOINTED REGENT—EDWARD JOINS HIS ARMY AT PERTH—MARCHES TO INVERNESS—ROSHEN LANDS AT DUNNOTAR—ATTACKED AND KILLED BY THE CITIZENS OF ABERDEEN—EDWARD BURNS THE TOWN—DAVID AND HIS QUEEN LAND AT INVERNEVIE—PEACE WITH ENGLAND—DAVID VISITS ABERDEEN, AND GRANTS A CHARTER—INVADES ENGLAND, AND IS TAKEN PRISONER AT NEVIL'S CROSS—ASSASSINATION OF SIR DAVID BEREKLY AT ABERDEEN—KING DAVID RANSOMED, AND RETURNS TO SCOTLAND—PLAGUE—DAVID RETIRES TO THE NORTH—RESIDES IN ABERDEEN—SILVER COINAGE AT ABERDEEN—DEATH OF DAVID—BISHOPS—CARMELITES—ROBERT II. THE FIRST OF THE STEWARTS, CROWNED—WAR WITH ENGLAND—PARLIAMENT AT ABERDEEN—DOUGLAS AND PIERCEY—DEATH OF KING ROBERT II.—ADAM DE TINNINGHAM BISHOP OF ABERDEEN.]

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**DAVID II.** the son of Robert Bruce, succeeded to the throne, in 1329, and was crowned at Scone, anno 1331, on the 25th November\*. Randolph was regent, and the tranquillity of Scotland was disturbed by the pretensions of Edward Baliol, who, at the head of a small army, invaded the kingdom, to overturn that govern-

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 152.

government which the valour of Robert had established\*. He landed at Kinghorn, 31st July, 1332, and defeated the earl of Fife, who opposed him. At Duplin-moor he surprised and totally routed the Scottish army, on the 12th August†. Perth consequently fell into his hands; and on the 24th September, Baliol was crowned at Scone. With that meanness peculiar to his family, he surrendered the liberties of his country to Edward III., and acknowledged him as his *liege lord*‡. The earl of Moray, Archibald Douglass, and Simon Fraser, however, assembled a body of horse-men, and assaulted Baliol's quarters at Annan, who escaped with difficulty, and took refuge in England§. Douglass, with 3,000 men, invaded Northumberland, wasted the borders, and brought off much booty, with many prisoners.

In the beginning of the year 1333, Edward, who had secretly countenanced, now openly assisted Baliol, and laid siege to Berwick with a powerful army. To relieve this important place, the battle of Hallidon was fought, in which the Scots were totally defeated||; and Baliol became once more master of the kingdom. Several castles, however, still remained in possession of the friends of David, and Kildrummy was held by  
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\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 157.

† The gallant Randolph died on the 20th July, 1332, and was succeeded in the regency by Donald, earl of Marre, who was destitute of talents, either civil or military, and lost his life and his army, at Duplin-moor.

‡ Annals, vol. ii. p. 173.

§ Ibid. p. 175.

|| Ibid. p. 185.

Christian Bruce, the sister of the valiant Robert. In the meantime, the young king and his consort were conveyed to France, where they were honourably received.

Baliol held a parliament at Edinburgh\*, which was sufficiently obsequious to his wishes. The disgraceful treaty between him and Edward was ratified, by which the kingdom was dismembered, and its national liberties renounced. But those barons who had supported Baliol, and contributed to his success, quarrelled among themselves about the division of their estates†; and Moubray being disgusted, joined Sir Andrew Murray of Bothwell, who assembled the surviving friends of David: thus the horrors of war were again renewed in Scotland. Baliol fled to England‡; Edward penetrated into the country with a large army, and wasted the Lothians. The friends of the young king were disunited by private quarrels, jealousy, and ambition; but several strong fortresses withstood the power of the English; and on the 11th July, 1335, Edward again invaded Scotland§, and marched to Perth, where he concluded a treaty on the 18th August, with the most powerful of the Scottish nobles, who acknowledged their subjection to the English king||. The earl of March, however, with Douglas and Sir Andrew Murray, still refused to submit; and with 800 men, joined to a party of 300 from Kildrummy, surprised the earl of Athole in the forest of Kilblain, and slew him with many  
of

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 187.

† Ibid. p. 191.

‡ Ibid. p. 194.

§ Ibid. p. 198.

|| Ibid. p. 201.

of his followers, who had deserted the interest of their country, and attached themselves to Baliol. Soon after this event, Sir Andrew assembled a parliament at Dunfermline, by which he was appointed regent of the kingdom\*.

Early in the year 1336, Edward joined his army at Perth, marched north, wasted Moray, and penetrated as far as Inverness. The Scots prudently avoided a general action, and confined their army amidst forests and morasses, from which it could not be dislodged. While Edward was parading in the northern counties in all the pomp of triumph, with a force too formidable for the power of the Scots, Thomas Rosheim, a knight in his service, landed in the month of August, with a reinforcement, at Dannotar. The inhabitants of Aberdeen, with more temerity than prudence, attacked him, but were defeated. Rosheim fell in the action; and Edward highly resented their conduct. He desolated the country in his return through Buchan, and burned the town of Aberdeen, putting many of the inhabitants to the sword†. The progress of the conqueror was thus marked by blood, and desolation every where followed his steps. The Scots, however, adhered to their  
system

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 207.

† Ibid. p. 210.

‡ Hector Boece mentions that Edward II. sent ships to Aberdeen, anno 1333, from which a party landed, and burned the town for six days; but this seems to be a mistake, which is reiterated in the Statistical Account, and other books. Aberdeen was speedily rebuilt after 1336, and the houses being entirely new, it was henceforth called *New Aberdeen*.

system of a desultory warfare, and, when Edward returned to England, issued from their fastnesses. Sir Andrew Murray made himself master of the castles of Dunnottar, Lawrieston, and Kinclevin\*, and greatly harrassed the English in all quarters. He became so strong indeed, that he invaded England in 1337, and wasted the country in the neighbourhood of Carlisle.

The war now languished on the part of Edward, and the affairs of Scotland assumed a more favourable aspect. Murray, who had so honourably contended during a long life, for the liberties of his country, died in 1338, and was succeeded in the regency by the steward of Scotland†. The steward added policy to courage, and by bribery or force, obtained possession of almost the whole of the fortresses in which Edward had left English garrisons.

On the 4th of May, 1341, David, with his consort, Johanna, landed from France, at Inverbervie, in Kincardineshire, after an exile of eight years‡. In 1342, the castle of Roxburgh was taken by escalade; and the Scots made frequent inroads into England. In the summer, David erected the royal standard, and led a numerous army into Northumberland, from which he soon retreated, without performing any thing memorable; and hostilities ceased on both sides, in consequence of a truce between Edward and the king of France, which included their

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allies,

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 212.

† Ibid. 222.

‡ Ibid. 228.

allies, and was to endure until Michaelmas, in the year 1346\*.

During the tranquillity of this season, David occupied himself in visiting different parts of his kingdom, and, in February 1343, was in the town of Aberdeen. The citizens having suffered much in the royal cause, to which they had always faithfully adhered, merited his peculiar care; and he granted them accordingly, a charter, confirming all their privileges. This charter is dated at Aberdeen, 21st February, 1343, and is witnessed by his nephew Robert, and the chief officers of state†.

The truce with the English was not strictly observed by the Scots, who, in the two following years, made frequent incursions into England; and, in 1346, David assembled an army at Perth, for the avowed purpose of invading Edward's territories. He marched accordingly, and penetrated as far as Durham; but the English attacked him at *Nevil's Cross*‡. His army was totally overthrown, and himself made a prisoner. He was conducted to the tower of London: but the Scottish nation still continued to carry on a feeble war under the regent Steward. In 1348, ineffectual negotiations were commenced for obtaining the liberty of king David; and in the year following, Scotland

was

\* *Annals*, vol. ii. p. 232.

† In the year 1345, ten marks sterling were settled as a stipend on the vicar of Aberdeen.—*Annals*, vol. ii. p. 381.

‡ *Annals*, vol. ii. p. 238.



was visited by a pestilence that had long desolated the continent of Europe\*.

In this barbarous age, family feuds were revenged by secret or open murder. Sir David Berkley had assassinated Sir John Douglass, whose death his brother, the knight of Liddesdale, determined to revenge, and hired John St. Michael to murder Berkley, who was accordingly assassinated at Aberdeen (anno 1350), on Shrove Tuesday†. Such deeds were common, and are characteristic of the barbarism of those times. And about two years afterwards, Lord William Douglass, in revenge for the murder of Berkley and Ramsay, way-laid and assassinated the knight of Liddesdale, while hunting in Ettrick forest‡.

The king of Scots was permitted to visit his dominions in 1351, having been enlarged in consequence of an agreement with commissioners from Scotland, who gave hostages for his return into custody. A treaty for the ransom of the king was concluded 13th July, 1354, at Alnwick Castle, as well as a truce between the nations for the space of nine years§. For the faithful performance of the articles, hostages were to be given; and the merchants of *Aberdeen*§, Perth, Dundee, and Edinburgh, were parties in the treaty, for themselves, and for all the other merchants in Scotland. Although this treaty was ratified by the Scottish commissioners, yet at the instigation of the French king, who sent a large sum of money to be distributed

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among

\* *Annals*, vol. ii. p. 244.

† *Ibid.* 245.

‡ *Ibid.* 251.

§ *Ibid.* 252.

among the nobles, the Scots broke all faith with Edward, and invaded England. The war being again renewed, Edward penetrated as far as Edinburgh, and laid the whole country waste with fire and sword. In the year 1357, however, another negotiation was entered into for the release of David, who was, at last, liberated for a ransom of 100,000 merks sterling, after a captivity of eleven years\*.

The plague broke out again in Scotland, in 1361, and continued its ravages during that year, with great violence. It is computed, that in this general calamity, about one-third of the people perished; among whom were many persons of distinction†. The king, with many of his nobles, retired into the northern parts of Scotland to avoid the infection; and at this time, a difference having arisen between him and the earl of Marre, he besieged and took Marre's castle of Kildrummy, in which he placed a garrison. His residence in the north was principally at Aberdeen and Kildrummy, where he remained for several months, but made an excursion to Morayshire. By various private charters, we find that David was in Aberdeen, on the 9th, 10th, 12th, and 14th September, 1361, and at Kildrummy, on the 19th September, and 13th October‡. He appears to have returned from Kildrummy, about the end of October; for he granted a charter of confirmation to Allan de Grahame, dated 1st November,

at

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 266.

† Ibid. p. 273.

‡ Robertson's Index to Charters, p. 71.

at Aberdeen; and there are also several others, dated in the same month at that place. On the 28th November, David was at Spynie; on the 7th December, at Elgin; and on the 24th, at Kinloss. He was at Spynie again on the 5th January; but had soon after returned to Aberdeen: for we find charters dated there the 15th, 16th, and 18th January, 1361-2. He left Aberdeen on the 20th January, after a residence there, and in other parts of the north, for about four months and a half.

The history of Scotland from this period to the close of David's long reign, contains few important occurrences, and these are not very circumstantially recorded. David appears, however, to have several times visited Aberdeen; for we find, that he was there the 17th August, 1366, and again in 1369\*. In the 37th year of his reign, he established a mint at Aberdeen, and coined money in terms of a statute enacted by parliament for that purpose. The value of the coin was reduced, and twenty-nine shillings and fourpence were made out of a pound of fine silver, which before that time was made into only twenty-one shillings; and David is the first king of Scotland who coined groats, according to our best authorities†.

David II. died at Edinburgh Castle, on the 22d February, 1370-1, and in the forty-seventh year of his age, forty-second of his reign. He was buried

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before

\* Robertson's Index, p. 82.

† Nicholson's His. lib. p. 310.

before the great altar in the church of the abbey of Holyrood\*.

Alexander de Kinninmonth succeeded Henry de Cheyn in the bishoprick of Aberdeen, in the year 1329, and sat about ten years†. During his time, the bishop's palace, and the houses of the canons, were burned by Edward, when he returned from his northern expedition; anno 1336, and set fire to the town of Aberdeen. He was succeeded by William de Deyn in 1345, after a vacancy in the see, for six years, and died in 1351, according to Hector Boece. John Rait was bishop, anno 1351, and died in 1355. He was succeeded by Alexander de Kinninmonth, second of this name, who was elected A. D. 1357. He laid the foundation of the new cathedral; but was sent on an embassy to France, and died at Scone the year after his return, anno 1382. Barbour, who writes the life of Robert Bruce, was archdeacon of Aberdeen about this time, and finished his history in 1375.

A monastery of Carmelites or White Friars, was founded at Aberdeen, in 1350, by Philip de Arbuthnot, in honour of the Virgin Mary; and he granted them *thirteen shillings and fourpence sterling* annually, from his lands. Their charter is given in the year 1355, and confirmed by king David II. the 17th August, and thirty-seventh year of his reign. David also confirms, "*fratribus de monte Carmeli, donationem*  
" *illam,*

\* Annals, vol. ii. p. 290.

† Keith's Catalogue, p. 65.

*" illam, quam dictus constabularius burgensis de Aberdeen,  
 " fecit assidem fratribus de Aberdeen, ad invenicnd. Certam,  
 " et vitum, ad Divinum officium complend. de quatuor  
 " marcis Sterlingorum annui redditus, de terra sua in  
 " vico castri ejusdem villæ."* King Robert II. confirms

to these friars in the year 1382, a grant made to them by John Crab, butgess of Aberdeen, of ten merks sterling, to be taken out of his lands, lying in Aberdeen and its neighbourhood. Robert, duke of Albany, likewise confirms (5th July, 1413), a donation to the Carmelites, by William Crab, out of his lands of Denburn, &c.\*. The church of the Carmelites was situated in the Green.

Robert II. the first king of the family of Stewart, ascended the throne, and was crowned at Scone, the 26th March, 1371, being the thirty-second day after his uncle's death, which happened on the festival of St. Peter's cathedral†. A great concourse of nobles and people attended to offer their homage to the new king, and to assist at the celebration of the ceremony‡. Robert Stewart possessed none of the necessary requisites for war; but it was difficult to restrain a turbulent and marauding people. The truce with England was violated by the earl of March, who in 1372, attacked the subjects of the king of England, while they were peaceably assembled at a fair in Roxburgh, and destroyed them

\* Keith's Catalogue, p. 278.

† Robertson's Index, p. 111.

‡ Heron's History of Scotland, vol. iii. p. 131.

them by a general massacre. The English retaliated, by desolating Berwickshire with fire and sword; and the horrors of war were thus renewed, through the cruelty and perfidy of the earl of March. A border war, attended with its usual circumstances of reciprocal burning, murder, and bloodshed, commenced.—Deeds of heroic valour distinguished individuals; but the unhappy people were cruelly sacrificed to the ambition, revenge, and ferocious dispositions of their chieftains. The alternate victories and defeats of the border warriors, roused the respective sovereigns of England and Scotland; and Richard II. with an army of 30,000 men, advanced by the eastern marches as far as Edinburgh, while a fleet accompanied his progress, and sailed into the Forth\*. The Scots were unable to meet Richard in the field, but counteracted his operations by an invasion of England; and to protect his own territories, he retreated south. Robert, whose natural disposition better fitted him for the pursuits of peaceful life, than the boisterous scenes of warfare, made frequent journies through his kingdom in a justiciary capacity, and was in Aberdeen in the course of his progress in the year 1382†, administering and enforcing the laws‡. In 1388, he assembled his parliament at Aberdeen, where it was resolved to raise two armies for the purpose of invading England; and with

\* Heron's History of Scotland, vol. iii. p. 145.

† At this time he confirmed Crab's grant to the Carmelites.

‡ Index to Charters, p. 128.

this business he was occupied for some time\*. Both armies rendezvoused at Jedburgh, where they separated ; the one directing its progress into England by the western, the other by the eastern marches†. In those ages, the courage of hostile leaders was often tried by single combat ; and Henry Piercy, the celebrated Hotspur, having challenged Douglas to fight him hand to hand with sharp ground spears, the combatants closed, and Piercy was unhorsed. Douglas carried off his lance with his pennon in triumph. Encouraged by this happy presage of victory, the Scots assaulted Newcastle, but were repulsed, and obliged to raise the siege. Piercy burning with revenge, followed Douglas, and overtook him at Otterburn. A fierce conflict ensued, in which the English were worsted, but Douglas was mortally wounded. The armies of both nations retreated to their respective territories, and next year the horrors of war were terminated by a truce. Robert died, anno 1390, at his castle at Dundonald, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, and nineteenth of his reign.

The see of Aberdeen was filled by Adam de Tiningham, dean, who, in 1382, succeeded Alexander de Kinninmonth‡. Adam was well descended, and reputed to be a man of great prudence and piety. He was held in high estimation by the king, and possessed great influence

\* History of the Gordons, vol. i. p. 28.

† Guthrie's History, vol. iii. p. 144.

‡ Keith, p. 66.

fluence in his councils : indeed so much so, that he would undertake nothing of moment without Adam's advice and approbation. In a treaty between Robert II. and the king of France, he was employed as joint ambassador with the bishop of Glasgow, and Archibald, earl of Douglas. When he returned home, he became, unjustly, the object of persecution, having incurred the resentment of Alexander Stewart, lord of Badenoch, the king's natural son ; but he was honourably acquitted by his sovereign, and delivered from the malevolence of his enemy, and died in advanced age, in 1390.



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## CHAPTER VI.

### CONTENTS.

[ROBERT III.—TOWN AND CATHEDRAL OF ELGIN BURNED  
—FEUDS—CLANS KAY AND CHATTAN—COMBAT AT PERTH  
—INTRODUCTION OF THE TITLE OF DUKE—BORDER WAR  
—BATTLE OF HOMILDON-HILL—JAMES THE KING'S SON,  
TAKEN BY THE ENGLISH, AND DETAINED—DEATH OF  
ROBERT—COINAGE AT ABERDEEN—EXTENT OF ABER-  
DEEN IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY—RECORDS OF  
ABERDEEN—BATTLE OF HARLAW—BISHOPS—JAMES I.  
RELIEVED FROM IMPRISONMENT IN ENGLAND IN TERMS  
OF A TREATY—HIS RETURN TO SCOTLAND, AND CORO-  
NATION.]

\* \* \* \*

**J**OH<sup>N</sup>, earl of Carrick, the eldest son of Robert II. by Elisabeth More, succeeded to the throne, and was crowned at Scone, 15th August, 1390. As the name of John was unknown in the list of Scottish kings, he assumed the auspicious appellation of Robert. Infirm in body, and naturally of a mild temper, he detested war, and cultivated the arts of peace; but the ferocious barons disdained a life of ease: and as the truce  
with

with England prevented their incursions into that country, they awakened their family feuds\*. The earl of Buchan pursued the bishop of Moray to his episcopal seat ; but failing to get him within his grasp, he burned the town of Elgin, with its noble cathedral. This sacrilegious wretch was the son of king Robert II., and the same who persecuted the good bishop of Aberdeen, in his father's life-time. His son Duncan, with the vassals of his father, made an inroad into the county of Angus, for the purpose of committing mischief, and obtaining plunder. Ogilvy the sheriff, and his brother, Walter Leighton, opposed him at Glenbrereth, with the armed force of the county. A fierce contest took place, and Ogilvy and Leighton, with about sixty of their followers, were killed†. So feeble was the power of Robert, that these outrageous actions passed with impunity.

About the year 1398, a deadly feud subsisted between the clans, Kay and Chattan, which all the power of government could not suppress. But an extraordinary and cruel expedient was resorted to, in order to settle the quarrel. Under the eye of the king and court, thirty warriors were selected from each of the two clans, to decide the dispute by combat ; which accordingly took place on the North Inch of Perth‡. Of the clan Kay, only one survived this fierce combat, and of the clan Chattan, only eleven. For a time the disturbances

\* Heron, vol. iii. p. 162.

† Ibid.

‡ Abercromby, vol. iii. p. 240.

turbances of the North Highlands were quieted by this event ; which sufficiently illustrates the barbarous manners of the people of that age, and shews the imbecility of Robert's administration.

At this time the title of *Duke* was first introduced, to gratify the vanity of the earl of Fife\*, and David, the king's eldest son, who at a solemn meeting of parliament at Perth, were created *Dukes of Albany* and *Rothsay*†. The dissipated and thoughtless *Rothsay* became the object of universal contempt, and fell a victim to the dark intrigues of his uncle *Albany*, by whose orders he was imprisoned and starved to death, in the tower of *Falkland*. The border war was renewed with all its horrors, and the gallant *Douglas* penetrated as far as *Newcastle* ; but on his return with the spoils of *Northumberland*, he was intercepted by the valiant *Hotspur*, who dispersed his army at *Homildon-hill*, with great slaughter. *Douglas*, and many others, were taken prisoners. *Piercy*, invading *Scotland*, laid siege to the castle of *Cocklaws*, which withstood his attacks, however, until relieved by the duke of *Albany*.

*Robert's* infirmities had long rendered him unfit for the duties of government ; and the administration of public affairs had been entrusted solely to the duke of *Albany*. The king viewed him with abhorrence as the murderer of his eldest son, and, justly dreading the

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atrocities

\* The earl of Fife was the king's brother, and chief adviser.

† Heron, vol. iii. p. 166.

atrocities of Albany, intended to send his second son, James, to France, for safety and protection. But the vessel which conveyed him, was captured by an English ship of war, and the prince and his attendants, were landed as prisoners at Flamborough Head, and thence carried to the tower of London. At that period a truce subsisted between the nations, and the conduct of Henry, the king of England, was therefore unjust and perfidious. The good king Robert, fell a victim to the mental distress which this new calamity occasioned, and expired in his castle of Rothsay, in Bute, in the year 1406, and sixteenth of his reign.

At this time there were few considerable towns in Scotland. Perth, Dundee, and Aberdeen, however, had become places of some consequence, from their local situation on the east coast, and the trade they carried on with the Flemings. Aberdeen had occasionally been the residence of our kings from an early period, and was distinguished by the partiality of several of them, as appears from the various charters granted by William the Lion, and his successors. During Robert's reign, there was a coinage at Aberdeen, of groats, half-groats, and pennies. They represented the king open-faced and crowned, but without a sceptre, with the inscription, "*Robertus Dei Gra. Rex Scotorum.*" On the reverse, are three globules in each quarter of the cross; and on the inner circle, "*Villa de Aberd\*.*" This is the second coinage that was made at Aberdeen;  
for

\* Nicolson's Scots Historical Library, p. 311.

for we can find no authority for supposing that Robert Bruce ever had any coinage in this place, as is generally alledged.

In the charter of confirmation to the Carmelite friars, by Robert II., dated anno 1382, the Green, the Castlegate, Upper and Nether kirk-gates, and Gallowgate, or Thiefgate, as it is sometimes called, are mentioned. If we add, therefore, the few houses that might have been erected on St. Catherine's Hill, to these streets, we then shall include the extent of the town of Aberdeen, in the fourteenth century. But we can scarcely imagine that the area of these streets was filled up with houses as at present; and it is probable, that they were only partly built, and in the irregular manner of all the old towns in Scotland.

The records belonging to Aberdeen, it is generally supposed, were destroyed at the time the town was burned by Edward III., anno 1336. But it is doubtful if any existed at that period, at least relative to the municipal government of the borough. In the year 1398, however, a set of council books were begun, and have been regularly kept, down to the present day, with the exception of an interruption of about twelve years. In a "*Survey of the famous City of Aberdeen,*" annexed to Barclay's "*Memorials for the government of the Royal Burghs of Scotland,*" we are favoured with a list of eighteen provosts during fourscore and eight years. But it would be of little importance to enrol their names, while we are totally unacquainted with their actions: and the first provost we shall mention, is WILLIAM CHALMERS, who was elected by con-

sent of the COMMUNITY, anno 1398, on the Monday after Michaelmas. He appears to have held his office for one year only, as Adam de Benin was elected in 1399, chief magistrate.

In this year (1399), the haugh of Gilcomston was let to Mathew Richards by the corporation, for eight shillings Scots annually; and it was ordered, that the whole lands and fishings belonging to the town, should, in future, be let yearly. In 1400, Adam de Benin was again elected provost. After the election of magistrates, the council appointed nine *liniatores*; six *gustatores cervisie*; two ditto *vini*; four *appretiatores carnis*; three *magistri ecclesie*; and two *repositoires*. In 1401 and 3, Laurence Leith was elected provost. In 1404, William Chalmers. In 1405-6-7-8, Robert Davidson. We are informed, that nothing worthy of notice is to be found in the records during these years. But there is one important fact sufficiently evident, and it is, that the magistrates were chosen annually by the burghesses.

In 1409, John Fitchet was provost; and next year Robert Davidson was elected, who was killed at the battle of Harlaw. As the provost and many of the citizens of Aberdeen, fell in that battle, it is an event which the nature of our work embraces. We shall, therefore, give a detailed account of it from the best authorities; but it may be proper first to relate concisely the state of our national affairs, and we shall then discover the more easily the causes which led to that celebrated battle.

We have seen that at the time of the demise of Robert

bert III. his son James was unjustly and cruelly detained a prisoner in England, by king Henry IV. who by this action had violated the truce with Scotland. The duke of Albany, who had virtually been regent during the life of Robert, now ruled Scotland with uncontrolled sway ; and the nobles acknowledged his right to the regency, although they lived on their domains more like independent sovereigns, than like subjects under the authority of established government. It was the policy of the court of England to weaken Scotland, by encouraging disaffection among the nobles, and promoting popular insurrections. In pursuance of this plan, Henry entered into an alliance with Donald of the Isles, who at any time but faintly acknowledged his subjection to the crown of Scotland. In right of his wife, Donald claimed the earldom of Ross. His title was rejected by the regent, and he fled to the court of Henry, who openly espoused his cause. Encouraged by the promises of the English monarch, he raised an army in his own dominions of the isles, and passing into Ross-shire, seized the estate in dispute. The vassals on the property, and other Highlanders, joined his standard, and he marched south. Moray, Strathbogie, and the Garrioch, were ravaged ; and he promised his followers a rich booty in the plunder of Aberdeen. His real motive for penetrating so far south, is not well known ; but it is probable he had some farther object in view than plunder, and may have been prompted by the intrigues of Henry to aspire to the throne of Scotland. But whatever were his views, they were frustrated by

the bravery of the people of the counties of Angus, and Mearns, and city of Aberdeen.

The progress of Donald alarmed the regent, who sent a commission to Alexander Stewart, earl of Marre, to levy forces, and oppose him. The earl hastily drew together almost the whole of the nobility and gentry between the rivers Tay and Spey, consisting of the *Lyons, Ogilvies, Maulea, Carnegies, Lindsays, Erskins, Fotheringhams, Leslies, Frasers, Irvines, Mensieses, Gordons, Abercrombies, Bannermans, Burnetts, Leiths, Forbeses, Duguids, Mowats, Barclays, &c.* with their followers; including Provost Davidson, with the citizens of Aberdeen\*. Supported by these brave knights and their vassals, the earl of Marre encountered the enemy at Harlaw, a village situated about 16 English miles from Aberdeen, on the 24th July, 1411. A desperate battle ensued. The combatants fiercely fought arm to arm, and the issue was uncertain; but the darkness of the night put an end to the contest: and Marre claimed the victory, because he remained on the field. Donald lost 900 of his men, with the chiefs of the clans *M'Intosh* and *M'Leane*, and being surrounded with a hostile country, he retreated first to Ross-shire, and then to the isles. The shattered state of Marre's army precluded all pursuit, and they had to regret the loss of many of their best and bravest men: indeed, so great was the slaughter of this day, that the first families in Angus, Mearns, Mar, Buchan, and the Garrioch, were nearly destroyed. *Leslie* of Balwhain, with six of his seven sons; *Ogilvy*, sheriff of Angus, with

\* Abercromby, vol. iv. p. 14.



with his son and heir; *Scrimgeour*, constable of Dundee; *Irvine*, of Drum; *Maule*, of Panmuir; *Abernethy*, of Saltoun; *Straiton*, of Lauriston; and ROBERT DAVIDSON, PROVOST OF ABERDEEN,—were honourably numbered with the dead; but their names are enrolled in the pages of Scottish history.

Robert Davidson's remains were interred in the consecrated ground of St. Nicolas; and his grave was found when the West Church was rebuilt, about three-score years ago.

At this time Gilbert Greenlaw was bishop of Aberdeen, having succeeded Adam de Tinningham in the year 1390\*. He was descended from an ancient family in Berwick, and in 1396, was made chancellor of Scotland†, but continued to hold his episcopal office. This eminent prelate was sent on an embassy to Charles VII. king of France, by the duke of Albany‡. But when he returned home, he found the regent had died; and resigning the chancellorship, he retired to his diocese, where (anno 1424), he died, and his body was interred in the choir of the cathedral church of Aberdeen§. He was highly esteemed by Robert III. who, "as a testimony of his favour to him, presented this bishop with a silver cross, in which was contained a bit of the wooden cross on which the apostle St. Andrew was crucified.—The gift bears date at Eliotstown, 4th May, the fourteenth year of his reign§." According to the superstitious notions

\* Keith's Catalogue, p. 66.

† Crawford's Lives, p. 23.

‡ Ibid.

§ Keith's Catal. p. 67.

tions of that age, this relick was deemed of high value, and was supposed to be a present worthy the dignity of a king to bestow, as a reward to a faithful servant for meritorious services.

At Michaelmas, 1411, Andrew Giffurd was elected provost. In 1412, Thomas Chalmers; and in 1413, William Jackson. From this year to 1426, the records are lost; and we cannot therefore trace, during that period, any thing relative to the municipal regulations of the town.

In the year 1419, the regent of Scotland died, and was succeeded by his son, Mordac, who seriously entered into a negotiation for the liberation of James I. who had been so long detained a captive in England. Commissioners were accordingly sent to the English court to settle the terms of his release, which were at last arranged at York, the 10th September, 1423, and finally ratified the 4th December, the same year\*. James obtained his liberty for the sum of £40,000, of which £10,000 were remitted as a dowry with his wife, the daughter of the earl of Somerset, the son of John of Gaunt. Hostages were given for the payment of this sum, and obligatory letters also were taken from the boroughs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, and Aberdeen; which shews that the mercantile interest had become of some consequence in that age. James returned to Scotland, the 29th March, 1424, and was crowned at Scone, along with his queen, the 20th April, the same year.

## CHAPTER

\* Abercromby, vol. iv. p. 43.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### CONTENTS.

[WARDENS—DEAN OF GUILD—VARIOUS PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO ABERDEEN, FROM 1426 TO 1480---JAMES III. ---HIS DEATH---SCHISM IN THE CHURCH---BISHOPS---JAMES IV.]

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**I**N the years 1426 and 7, Gilbert Menzies was provost. This year (1427), *Wardens* were set over the craftsmen, and appointed to fix prices on their work\*. Any interference with the fair price of labour, is at all times extremely impolitic; for labour may be called a commodity, that will always find its level in the market, and will rise or fall, in proportion to the demand for it, which again is regulated by the necessities of the employers, between which, and the necessities of the labourers, there is a natural, but equal and just

\* By James I. p. 7. ch. 103, it is enacted, that "councils in boroughs choose a warden of every craft, with assistants, to prize the matter and workmanship of ilk craft."

just competition, which ought not in any respect to be shackled by legislative interference.

In 1428, John Vaus was provost. Previous to this period, there were only the provost and four bailies, as office-bearers in Aberdeen; but at the election this year, a dean of guild was chosen for the first time. *Vaus* appears to have continued in office for four years.

About this time, the North Highlands were in a state of insurrection against the government, and it was found necessary to call a parliament, for the purpose of granting supplies to enable the king to suppress these disturbances, which met at Perth, 15th October, 1431, and appointed a subsidy to be raised from all the lands of the realm. John Fife, a citizen of Aberdeen, was nominated one of the auditors, to settle the accounts of the collectors, and to receive the money, which was lodged in a chest in the castle of St. Andrews, under the charge of the bishop and prior.

Thomas Chalmers was provost, anno 1433. John Blenshall, in the succeeding year; and John Scroggs, in 1435. In this year a parliament met at Perth, 10th January. The city of Aberdeen was represented by Thomas Chalmers\*; for he is mentioned as being one of a committee that was unanimously elected and sworn to hear and report all causes and controversies which

\* Burgesses were first admitted into Parliament, anno 1326, by Robert Bruce.—*Robertson's History of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 77.

which were to be moved or insisted upon during that session\*. The object for assembling this parliament seems to have been to judge in an accusation which the king had brought against George Dunbar, earl of March, whose title to his lands was found deficient, and he was accordingly deprived of them. The merits of this question are foreign to our purpose ; but it is impossible not to remark, that the king was unjust, and that this parliament, like many modern ones, was extremely obsequious.

Our records say, that in Aberdeen this year (1435), the boll of wheat was sold for sevenpence sterling; malt for fourpence; and meal for three pence two-thirds sterling.

In 1437, John Fife was elected provost. It was this year enacted in council, that no provost, bailie, or office-bearer, shall be continued in office longer than one year† ; and that within forty days after he goes out of office, he shall give in his accounts, and pay what he may owe the corporation without delay, under pain of being rendered incapable of holding any office within the town in future. By this act of council it would appear, that the provost of the borough was also treasurer. The council at this time had either found, or suspected that abuses existed in the management of the revenue ; for they enacted that no man shall spend above twenty pence sterling of the " common guid,"

\* Abercromby, vol. iv. p. 77.

† James III. P. 5. c. 30. enacts, " that officers in burghs be not continued farther than a year."

guid," (*tempora mutantur*), without the consent of a majority of the council. Perhaps the council had no real cause for this suspicious enactment, but were only moved by that detestable reforming spirit, which in modern times, has so much alarmed placemen and pensioners, and therefore made a law against a visionary case. We shall imagine it so, for the sake of the reputation of the provosts of Aberdeen, previous to the year 1437!\*

Thomas Chalmers was again elected provost, at Michaelmas, 1438; and next year, Gilbert Menzies. Robert Erskine, earl of Mar, was this year (1439), admitted a guild brother, and on the occasion, delivered to the council a *white purse*, containing five pence sterling. The ceremony of delivering a white purse containing fivepence, into the hand of the provost, by the burgesses when they receive their tickets of admission to the freedom of the town, is still continued.

John Fife was elected provost, anno 1440, and the same year Sir Alexander Irvine, of Drum, was appointed governor of the town. At that period, the kingdom was in a very unsettled state, being distracted by the quarrels of the barons, and the predatory incursions of the

\* James I. was murdered this year in the convent of the Dominicans at Perth, on the 29th November, by the earl of Athol, his grandson, Robert Stewart, and Robert Grahame, an outlaw, with their assistants. The conspirators burst into the apartment of the king, while he was at supper with his queen, and cruelly butchered him. The queen received two wounds in endeavouring to save her husband from the daggers of the assassins.—*Guthrie's Hist.* vol. iii. p. 347.

the islanders of the Hebrides. A minority generally occasioned such calamities to the country, as the office of regent was frequently a subject of dispute, and the people did not regard that form of government with the same reverence which they were accustomed to bestow on the royal power, when it proceeded directly from the king himself. In this troublesome state of our domestic affairs, it was prudent in the people of Aberdeen to appoint a military governor,—to array their defensive force,—and to prepare it to resist any sudden attack of open or concealed enemies.

In 1441, Mathew Fitchet was provost, and Sir Alexander Irvine continued governor. In 1442, John Mar, provost: the year following, Alexander Chalmers; and, in 1444, John Vaus. In this year (1444), William White, a shoemaker, was convicted of entertaining players of cards and dice in his shop, by the verdict of an assize\*, and was ordered to refrain from so doing in future, under pain of banishment from the town.

Dice are an invention of remote antiquity; but cards were introduced about the year 1390, for the purpose, it is said, of diverting the melancholy of Charles VI. king of France. From the close connexion which at that time subsisted between the Scots

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and

\* It was enacted, James II. Parl. II. c. 46. "That in all burghs where be eight or twelve persons, after the quantity of the town, chosen of secret council, and sworn thereto, to decide matters of wrong or unlaw, to the avail of five or eight pounds, within eight days warning."

and French, we can easily believe, that the vices of the latter would be early introduced among the former, which, first contaminating the higher ranks of society, would soon descend to the lower. But as no statute then existed against card and dice playing, the interference of the magistrates with the amusements of the shoemaker, was *ipso facto* illegal, although coloured by the verdict of an assize\*.

John Vaus was provost, anno 1445. In this year, a play entitled, "*The Mystery of the Halie Blude*," was enacted at Aberdeen, on the Windmill-hill†. It was the practice in those times to enact such buffooneries as this play, on the sabbath-day. At a period long subsequent, they were suppressed‡; but the magistrates of Aberdeen, highly to their credit, endeavoured, though without success, to suppress them at that time.

In 1446, Alexander Chalmers was provost: in 1447, William Sherrar: 1448, John Fife: 1449, and 50, John Scroggie. In this year, 1450, a religious house was founded for the Observantines, by Richard Vaus, and the citizens of Aberdeen§. These monks were called Grey Friars, and their monastery was situated where the Marischal College now stands, and it is said to

\* The first statute against card and dice playing, was enacted anno 1621, 14th James VI.

† Irving's *Lives of the Scotch Poets*, vol. i. p. 201.

‡ Act discharging the players and personages of *Robin Hood*, *Little John*, *Abbot of Unreason*, and *Queen of May*, Q. M. Parl. 6. c. 61.

§ Keith's Catalogue, p. 276.



to have been a fabrick of great size. King James III. granted a charter of confirmation to the Observantines, dated at Edinburgh, 21st December, 1479, or twentieth of his reign.

In 1451 and 2, John Fife was provost : 1453, John Marr : 1454, Andrew Menzies : 1455, John Scroggie : 1456 and 7, John Fife\* : 1458†, 9, and 1460, Richard Kintore. In this year James II. lost his life at the siege of Roxburgh, by the bursting of a cannon, a piece of which struck his thigh, and killed him on the spot, on the 3d August, 1460, and twenty-fourth of his reign. His son, James III. was immediately de-  
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clared

\* In this year (1457-8), a parliament was assembled at Edinburgh, on the 6th March, which appointed judges to sit during the space of forty days, to administer the laws at Edinburgh, Perth, and Aberdeen. The clergy, nobility, and burgesses, were then the administrators of justice by rotation. The lords appointed to sit at *Aberdeen*, were the bishop of Ross, the abbot of Deer, and Mr. Walter Idell, for the clergy : the earl of Errol, the lord Glamis, and the lord Forbes, for the barons : John Fife, Andrew Menzies, and Walter Thomson, for the boroughs. From these courts no appeal lay either to the king or parliament.—*Guthrie's Hist.* vol. iv. p. 43.

† In this year (1458), the coinage was altered by act of parliament. It was ordered that eight groats should be made out of an ounce of silver, and each groat to be of the value of twelve pennies. This regulation was, however, not strictly adhered to, and it is difficult to ascertain exactly the value of the Scotch coin, which was very fluctuating, and often affected by the state of the coinage in neighbouring nations.—*Guthrie*, vol. iv. p. 45.

A groat was equal to sevenpence halfpenny sterling, and the penny Scots to one-half and one-eighth of a penny sterling.

clared king, in the seventh year of his age, and recognised by the whole army.

In 1461, Andrew Menzies was elected provost ; and in 1462, Richard Kintore. In this year, a curious contract was entered into between the earl of Huntly and the magistrates of Aberdeen. They signed a bond, in which Huntly obliged himself to defend the town against all its enemies, and to maintain the rights and privileges of the community, on the one part ; and they, on the other, bound themselves to assist him with advice, and to supply him with men and money, to enable him to defend himself against all hostile attacks whatever, reserving only their allegiance to the crown. This obligation was to continue for the space of ten years ; but soon after it was contracted, Huntly made a requisition for men and horses to be sent to him in the Cabrach. The provost, however, acquainted his lordship by letter, that he could not so hastily provide such a number of horses as were requisite, and besides, he had received orders from government to be careful to defend the town against an English fleet that was coming to attack it. In the history of Scotland we can find nothing that could occasion such a requisition on the part of Huntly : and as a truce took place that year between the English and Scots, it is not very probable that a fleet should have been sent against Aberdeen. We must, therefore, view the demand of Huntly as an experiment to try the fidelity of the people of Aberdeen, and the answer of the provost as an artful evasion of the terms of the compact.

In

In the years 1462-3-4-5 and 6, Richard Kintore was provost: in 1467-8-9, Alexander Chalmers: in 1470, Alexander Allison: 1471, Richard Kintore: 1472, Andrew Sherrar: 1473, Andrew Allison: 1474, Alexander Chalmers: 1475, Alexander Menzies: 1476, Andrew Sherrar was provost. This year (1476) the council granted, for the purpose of building the quire of the church, all fees usually paid to the provost, bailies, dean of guild, and to the abbot and prior of the borough, out of the revenue of the town, for seven years. In 1477, Alexander Chalmers was provost: in 1478, Andrew Sherrar. In this year Alexander Coutts was allowed by the council to receive for every fire-house within the borough, 1-6th of a penny sterling yearly, for keeping the causeways clean, and repairing the same. In 1479, Alexander Chalmers, provost: in 1480, Alexander Menzies. This year the magistrates and council assembled a head-court, which taxed the inhabitants for a sum of money to defray the expence of blocking up the entrance to the harbour; and at the same time the council ordained, that if any person should send his goods out of town, and absent himself from the defence of it, while in danger, his goods should be escheated, and himself banished for a year and day; and if he held any lease or feu from the town, he should forfeit the same, and his house be demolished, in terms of common law.

A war having at this time commenced betwixt England and Scotland, by border hostilities, the magistrates and inhabitants of Aberdeen, appear to have adopted measures of precaution for the safety of the town; but

as no serious danger could reasonably be apprehended from an English fleet at that time, and no attempt at a maritime invasion did afterwards actually take place, we may presume that the harbour never was blocked up, and that the money levied, was only intended as a reserve to meet a possible contingency.

In 1481, James Leslie was provost. This year the best ale in Aberdeen was sold for eight pennies Scots per gallon\*, which were equivalent to fivepence sterling, of our present money; and bread of wheaten flour, at about one penny farthing sterling per pound, of fourteen ounces. In 1482, Robert Blenshall was provost. It was ordered by the council this year, that candle having a good dry wick, should be sold for four pennies Scots per pound, or twopenes halfpenny sterling. It was likewise ordained, that no person should open his shop on the Sabbath-day, under the penalty of one pound of wax, or its value, to be paid to St. Nicolas' church. John Rutherford was provost in 1483; and it was this year ordained by the council that the inhabitants shall have their arms in their shops, and be ready at all times to assist the provost in the execution of his duty, either in his civil capacity, or as military commander of the town†. By

\* One penny Scots is a halfpenny and one-eighth sterling.

† In Scotland formerly, every man from the age of 16 to 60, was obliged to arm himself according to his rank. By act James I. Parl. 3. c. 60, it was ordained, "that ilke gentleman, "havand ten pounds weorth of land, or mair, be sufficientlie harnessid and armed with basnet, haill legge harness, sword,

a head court assembled at Michaelmas this year, it was ordained, that no provost, bailie, or office-bearer, shall expend more than the annual revenue of the town, that the community may not be burdened with debt; but if he should do so, he shall be individually liable for it.

In 1484, Alexander Chalmers was provost. In this year the magistrates and council appointed the incorporations of craftsmen to wear the badges of their respective trades on their breasts, in their procession on Candlemas day, under the penalty of the loss of borough privileges for one year. In 1485, Sir John Rutherford of Tarland, was provost. The town's mills were let this year to David Menzies, for seven years, at the annual rent of £1 : 13 : 4, sterling, the tenant being bound to defray the necessary repairs, during the currency of his lease. In 1486, Alexander Menzies was provost : 1487, Sir John Rutherford ; and in 1488, David Menzies, younger. For these three years and

“ speare, and dagger ; and gentlemen havand less extentes of  
 “ landes, nor na landes, sall be armed at their gudlie power, af-  
 “ ter the discretion of the schirreffs ; but all other zeamen of the  
 “ realme, betwixt XVI. and sentie zeare, sall be sufficientlie  
 “ bowed and shafted, with sword, and buckler, and kniffe :  
 “ And that all burgesses and indwellers within the borow-  
 “ townes of the realme, in like maner be anarmed and harnished,  
 “ and make *Weapon Showinges* within the burrowis of the realme  
 “ in like maner foure times in the year, and that be the alder-  
 “ men and bailies, upon the quhilk the chamberlaine and his  
 “ deputies sall know and execute the said thinges.”

and the five following, nothing is to be found in the town's records worth relating. We shall, therefore, turn our attention to the great and important events of our national history.

James III. who had succeeded to the throne under the favourable auspices of popular affection, soon betrayed a natural weakness of mind that rendered him unfit for the government of a turbulent people. He became addicted to judicial astrology, which absorbed the whole faculties of his mind, and embittered his life. His favourites were professors of this ridiculous science, with which he was infatuated; and they artfully employed it to engender suspicion and distrust against the members of his own family, as well as against the most powerful of the barons. His youngest brother, the earl of Marre, fell a victim to the prediction, that "*the Scottish lion would be devoured by his own whelps,*" and his other brother, the duke of Albany, saved his life only by flight. From a lover of science and the liberal arts, James became an adept in sorcery, which bewildered his understanding, and plunged him in all the horrors of jealousy and suspicion. He thought every man was his enemy, and acting upon that conviction, degenerated into the gloomy tyrant.

The chief barons of the borders of the west and south were the objects of his particular hatred; and from necessity they confederated against him. The Humes—the Hepburnes—the dependents of the house of Douglass—the Stewarts of Avondale, with the earl of Angus—and the two families, Gray and Drummond, assembled forces, and marched towards Stirling. The  
king

king called upon the northern barons, the borroughs, and all his vassals, to join his standard. The earls of Crawford, Huntly, Athole, Argyle, and Moraithe, with Lindsay, Ruthven, Erskine, and Grahame, repaired to him at Perth, and the royal army mustered about 30,000 strong. They advanced to Torwood to meet the rebels, and a battle ensued. The son of James was in the army of the insurgents, and countenanced their measures, which so shocked his father, that his resolution forsook him, and he pusillanimously fled when the battle joined. He was thrown from his horse in crossing Bannockburn, and, more dead than alive, was carried into the house of a miller, where he was murdered by some of his pursuers. Thus fell the unhappy James III. on the 11th June, 1488, in the thirty-sixth year of his age, and twenty-ninth of his reign.

During this reign a schism arose in the church of Scotland. Patrick Graham succeeded James Kennedy, as bishop of St. Andrews, but had been withheld from the possession of his temporalities through the intrigues of the Boyds, who were his personal enemies, and maintained unbounded sway in the court of James. Unable to prevail against such powerful interest at home, he repaired to Rome, where he was graciously received by the pontiff, and not only confirmed in his see, but was created archbishop, and appointed metropolitan of Scotland, with the authority of legate. By this appointment, the supremacy of the church of England over that of Scotland, was annihilated; but the clergy viewed his elevation with envy, and raised a cabal against him, by whose misrepresentations he  
was

was deprived of his dignities and his liberty. This worthy prelate was left to languish in a prison, a melancholy instance of the ingratitude of the king, the envy of the clergy, and the malignancy of Schevez, the astrologer, who impudently ascended the metropolitan seat of the learned, the pious, and amiable Patrick Graham, which he disgraced by his follies and his crimes.

Since the death of Gilbert Greenlaw, the see of Aberdeen had been filled by several eminent men. Henry Leighton was translated from Moray to Aberdeen, in the year 1424. He was descended from the ancient family of Leighton of Ulysses-haven, or Usan, in the county of Angus\*. He was one of the commissioners sent to London, for negotiating the ransom of James I., and returned home with him. He was a very learned man, and died, as it is said, in the year 1441. Ingeram Lindsay immediately succeeded, who was also a very learned and studious man. He was very hospitable, and ruled his diocese with prudence and moderation. By his orders the roof of the high church was laid on, and the floor paved with free-stone. His integrity was such, that the royal influence could not prevail on him to admit some unworthy persons to benefices whom the king had presented, by which he incurred his majesty's displeasure. He died at Aberdeen, anno 1459, universally lamented, and was buried with great solemnity.

Thomas

\* Keith's Catal. p. 67.



Thomas Spence, bishop of Galloway, was translated to the see of Aberdeen, on the death of Ingeram Lindsay\*. He was a man of singular prudence, and employed in several embassies, particularly in negotiating a treaty of marriage between the duke of Savoy, on behalf of Lewis Count de Maurienne, his son, and Anabella, sister to king James II. in the year 1449. He was also appointed one of the ambassadors to arrange the terms of a truce with Henry VI. of England, anno 1451. He was made keeper of the privy-seal in the year 1458, but resigned his office next year, when translated to Aberdeen. In 1468, he was again appointed keeper of the privy-seal, which he retained, until William, bishop of Orkney, was made keeper in the year 1473. Bishop Spence was well acquainted with public business, and accordingly employed in several legations. He erected an hospital at Edinburgh, where he died on the 15th April, 1480, and was buried in the Trinity College church, at the foot of Leith Wynd, near to his hospital†.

Robert Blacader succeeded bishop Spence. He was the son of Sir Patrick Blacader of Tullieallan, and was first a prebendary of Glasgow, and rector of Cardross. Being then in Rome in a public capacity, on a mission from James III. he was consecrated bishop of Aberdeen, by pope Sixtus IV. Having succeeded in the business about which he had been sent, he returned home, and was honourably received by the clergy and people

\* Keith's Catal. p. 163.

† Ibid. p. 68.

people of his diocese. The king entertained so high an opinion of his talents, that he was appointed a privy counsellor, and translated to the see of Glasgow, in 1484-5. Bishop Blacader was a man of great dexterity and address, and deeply skilled in the politics of the times. He was employed in several important negotiations, in which he successfully acquitted himself; and in conjunction with the earl of Bothwell and Andrew Foreman, settled the marriage betwixt king James IV. and Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII. of England, which produced the union of these kingdoms under one sovereignty. He possessed so much influence at the court of Rome that he prevailed on the pope to erect the see of Glasgow into an archbishoprick; of which the diocesans of Dunkeld, Dunblane, Galloway, and Argyle, were appointed the suffragans. He undertook a journey to the Holy Land, but died in his progress, on the 28th July, anno 1508.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### CONTENTS.

[VARIOUS PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO ABERDEEN—JAMES  
IV.—FLODDEN-FIELD—LIFE OF BISHOP ELPHINSTON.]

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**AT** Michaelmas 1489, Sir John Rutherford was elected provost; and again in 1490. Next year, John Cullen: 1492, Sir John Rutherford: 1493, Alexander Reid: in 1494\*, David Menzies; and in 1495, Alexander Chalmers, of Mortlech. In 1496, Sir John Rutherford was again elected provost; and this year

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an

\* During this year (1494), the Scotch parliament made an act, obliging all workmen and tradesmen to submit to the regulations of the civil magistrates, with regard to the prices of articles sold by them, more especially of eatables and drinkables. But the magistrates of Aberdeen had exercised this power so early as the year 1427, which was now countenanced by legal authority.—*See Act James IV. Parl. 5. c. 56.*

an assessment was laid on the inhabitants, by an order from the king, for the purpose of maintaining eight men of the duke of York's regiment. A tax was also imposed on the community to defray the expence of Alexander Menzies' journey to court, who was sent on a mission to the king, to request that he would excuse the inhabitants from attending him in the expedition into England, or to commute that service for a sum of money, as they were anxious to retain their men "to defend their own town from their old enemies, the English." It was ordained, July 11th, by the magistrates, council, and community, at a meeting called for the purpose, that all the freemen of the borough should appear on the Monday following, with their warlike accoutrements and arms, according to their respective rank or station; and that every man should have a spear five ells in length\*, and a bow and target, with all other defensive and offensive weapons, in terms of the royal proclamation; but that every one must remain within the town, for the defence of it against the English, certifying, that those who failed to appear, should pay eightpence each per day, to hire others in their place.

On the 1st August, three singers for the quire were appointed,

\* The length of the spear was regulated by the statute of James III. parl. 6. c. 44., which ordains that it shall be five ells in length, under the pain of escheat of the spears, and the maker or home-bringer, to be at the king's will. By a subsequent act the same reign, parl. 11. c. 81, the spears were ordered to be five ells and a half in length, and of proportional thickness.

appointed with the following salaries, viz. Robert Vaus, 16s. 8d.; John Strachan, 6s. 8d.; and Robert Hutcheon, 3s. 4d. It was ordered that these salaries should be collected from John Wamot, Andrew Cullen, and Gilbert Menzies, being their rent for three nets salmon fishing, which was all they paid for them.

The town was taxed (September 19th), in the sum of £16 : 13 : 4, sterling, as a *propine*\* to the king, for permitting the inhabitants to remain at home, and relieving them from military service with the army.

In order to discover the causes which produced these proceedings, it is necessary to attend to the situation of public affairs at that time. But it is impossible not to observe that the citizens of Aberdeen appear to have entertained a constant dread of a debarkation from an English fleet, since the time of Rosheme's landing in 1336, and that this phantom perpetually haunted their imaginations.

During the early part of the reign of James IV. he was occupied with the regulation of the internal affairs of the kingdom; and his cotemporary of England, Henry VII. was desirous to maintain the relations of

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peace

\* *Propine*. S. signifies "drink-money, or the act of handing " drink to another, or drinking to him, and expressing a wish " for his health. This custom prevailed among the Greeks, " from whom the term has been transmitted to us."—When used as a *verb*, it signifies to present a cup to another; but in a general sense, it implies to present, or to give any thing whatever. Here it is used as a gift or bribe.—See Dr. Jamieson's *Dictionary of the Scottish Language*.

peace with the Scottish nation, and accordingly the truce was renewed from time to time. But James possessed a martial spirit, and was fond of tournaments and manly sports, in which he eminently excelled. An occasion, however, for a war with England, had not yet occurred, when an unfortunate stranger appeared at his court, with irresistible claims on his protection and patronage. Some doubt existed as to the reality of the murder of the two sons of Edward IV. of England, which was generally imputed to their uncle, Richard the Third; and a young man of elegant manners, and bearing a striking resemblance to Edward the Fourth, claimed the dignity of his parentage, and the inheritance of the house of York. He was warmly recommended to James by the duchess of Burgundy, and the king of France; and his handsome appearance and interesting story won the friendship and sympathy of the king, while it afforded him a fair pretence for indulging his passion for war. James keenly espoused his cause, and made preparations to invade England, to dethrone Henry VII., and to place the crown on the head of Perkins Warbeck, the reputed duke of York. This unfortunate youth had attempted to land in England and in Ireland, but meeting with no encouragement in these countries, he steered his course for Scotland, with about six hundred followers. To support these attendants of the duke of York, an assessment, equal to the maintenance of eight men, was laid on the town of Aberdeen.

With an army numerous and well appointed, James  
invaded

invaded England, but soon retreated, without effecting any thing worthy the magnitude of his preparations, or in any respect benefiting Warbeck's cause. It was to relieve the town from furnishing its contingent of men in this expedition, that Alexander Menzies was sent to the king (anno 1496), who, it would appear, commuted their service for L.16 : 13 : 4, sterling. The unfortunate Warbeck was honourably dismissed from the court of James IV.; and in a few years afterwards (anno 1501), a peace between the two countries was settled, and cemented by the marriage of the king with Margaret, the daughter of Henry.

During the four following years, Sir John Rutherford of Tarland, was provost. In January 1497, the magistrates and council ordered that the corporations of craftsmen should provide standards respectively, for their members to rally round in the moment of danger.

In this year it appears that the venereal disease had spread in Scotland to an alarming height; and it was enacted by the magistrates of Aberdeen, on the 24th April, "that all light women be charged to desist from the vice and sin of venery," under pain of being marked with a red-hot iron on the cheek, and banished the town; and it was ordered, that those already infected, should be expelled from the town, and their houses shut up. This terrible disease, which can only be propagated by vice and folly, was thought to be highly infectious, and attracted the attention of the privy-council, which ordered all persons afflicted with

that distemper in Edinburgh, to be conveyed to the island of Inchkeith, and "there to remain till God provide for their health\*!" The physicians and others who had attended the infected, were included in this order†, and the penalty of contravention was burning in the cheek. This disease, it is said, was imported from America by Columbus's sailors; but there is reason to believe that it had previously existed in Europe, although it was less virulent in its effects, and but little noticed until the siege of Naples in 1493, where its ravages were dreadful.

St. Nicolas was the tutelar saint of Aberdeen; and the magistrates and council, with the burgesses, annually made a procession in honour of their protector. They assembled this year on the 8th May, on Woolman Hill, and appointed Thomas Leslie and Robert Cullen, abbot and prior for twelve months, with an allowance of 5s. 6d. two-thirds, to defray their expences, to be paid out of the revenue of the town, at the expiry of that time.

June 9th. The magistrates and council order a blockhouse to be built "*of great strength*" at the mouth of the harbour, for resisting the English; and they ordained at the same time, an array of the inhabitants with their arms and habiliments, in compliance with the king's orders. As James had early accustomed himself to the use of arms, he earnestly endeavoured

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\* Arnot's History of Edinburgh, p. 260.

† It was issued the 22d September, 1497.



to make all his subjects soldiers. And for that purpose, the sheriffs were empowered to muster, four times a-year, the inhabitants of their respective districts; the aldermen and bailies doing the same within the boroughs, as they should answer to the chamberlain or his deputy.

In 1498, nothing occurs in the records worthy of notice. On the 23d July, the following year, it was ordered by the provost, Sir John Rutherford, that the appreciators of feshes shall value the same, and that no person shall buy them until the price be fixed.

In 1500, the town was taxed in L.5:11:1½, as their proportion of the assessment for defraying the expences of the ambassadors employed to settle the king's marriage.

In 1501, and the two following years, Alexander Menzies was provost. In June, 1503, the dean of guild, with his council, ordained, that no man should be admitted a free burgess for less money than 5s. 6d. two-thirds. It is ordered by the magistrates and council, that blacksmiths shall take no more for horse-shoes than two, three, or four pennies Scots, according to their size. October 20th—It is appointed, that James Cumming, physician, shall receive ten merks Scots, until such time as he shall be provided with a net's salmon fishing, either in the Midchingle, or Fords, grassum free, but for which he is to pay the same rent as another would do. It is probable, that Mr. Cumming was the only medical man in the town, and that he had threatened to leave it, unless remunerated for his services.

services with something else than the fees of his practice.

On the 30th September, 1504, John Leslie, of Wardhouse, was elected provost: in 1505, Gilbert Menzies; and next year, Andrew Cullen. On the 30th January, 1505-6, a procession of the trades was ordered, specifying the fleshers, barbers, bakers, shoemakers, skimmers, coopers, wrights, hatmakers, bonnet-makers, waukers, listers, weavers, taylors, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, and other hammer-men, and that they shall march two by two socially together, under their respective standards.

February 26th, 1507. The magistrates and council ordered the sum of 6s. 8d. to be laid out on wine and spiceries, for the celebration of the king's birth day. In the years 1507-8-9 and 10, Gilbert Menzies was provost. In 1508, the barrel of salmon was sold for four shillings and sevenpence.

In the year 1510, the queen made a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Duthac in Ross-shire, and she passed through Aberdeen. The council and whole community (May 5th), agree that the queen shall be received in as honourable a manner in this, as in any town in Scotland, excepting Edinburgh, and appoint commissioners to provide presents for her majesty, of such things as may appear to them suitable, to the amount of L.16 : 13 : 4, sterling.

In this year an account of the number of brewers of ale for sale in this city, was taken, and found to amount in all to 153, as follows: in the town-quarter, 37; in the crooked quarter, 35 freemen, and nine that are not burgesses;

burgesses ; in the Green quarter, 32 free, and six not free ; and in the Footdee quarter, 23 free, and 11 not so.

In 1511, 12, and 13, Gilbert Menzies was again chosen provost. In this year, the memorable battle of Flodden-field was fought, in which James IV. was killed, and a great many of the Scottish barons. The intrigues of the French court had precipitated James into a war with England. Almost all our contests with our potent neighbours originated through French influence, and Scotland, for ages, was the unhappy dupe of Gallic politics. Nothing could be more imprudent than to attack England at that time, for the sake of an ally who was unable to defend himself, and could not possibly afford any assistance to the Scots in the event of disaster. But the fortune of James was determined, and he hurried to his destiny. The French ambassador, and the lady Heron\*, were the evil *genii* that surrounded him. The former presided in his councils, and the latter betrayed his secrets. On the 22d of August, James passed the Tweed, and encamped at Twissel-haugh ; but, sunk in amorous dalliance, he forgot the object of his expedition, and allowed the English forces to form a junction. The castles of Norham, Etal, and Wark, were taken and demolished ; and James took up a strong position on the Cheviot-hills. The earl of Surry, who commanded the English army, manœuvred so skilfully, that he drew the Scots  
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\* The daughter of Heron of Ford, hence called Lady Ford.

from this position, and forced them to fight on Flodden-muir under every disadvantage. The particulars of the battle it is unnecessary to relate; but we may be assured, that all that desperate courage could achieve, was performed by the Scottish army, which was nearly annihilated. The king, and the flower of our nobility, were numbered with the dead; and so great was the slaughter of this day, that our bards have perpetuated it in our national melody, and mingled the events of the battle with our early predilection for Scottish song.

Thus fell James IV., in the forty-first year of his life, and twenty-sixth of his reign. During his administration the condition of the people was considerably ameliorated, by many wise and prudent enactments, for the protection of life and property. The church was yet all powerful in Scotland, although alarmed at the progress of heresy in England; and the country enjoyed on the whole, more of prosperity and happiness than in any preceding reign.

The see of Aberdeen, at that period, was filled by William Elphinston, a man eminently conspicuous for his talents, piety, and worth, and who justly merits the homage of our gratitude. He devoted the fruits of a long and laborious life to the establishment of the college at Aberdeen, and the erection of the bridge of Dee, both works of national utility, and lasting monuments of the public spirit and disinterested sentiments of the amiable prelate, who also faithfully served his country in the elevated station of chancellor of the kingdom.

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The city of Aberdeen owes so much to bishop Elphinston's generosity, that we deem it unnecessary to make any apology for the insertion of a lengthened detail of the principal incidents of his life, which we shall select from the most authentic sources.

Bishop Elphinston was the son of William Elphinston, a merchant in Glasgow, who is generally reputed to be the founder of the trade of that city\*. His son, William, was born in Glasgow, in the year 1437, and gave early presages of great genius, which was fondly cherished by his parents, and carefully cultivated by the best teachers. He studied in the newly-erected university there, and in the twentieth year of his age became master of arts. He then applied himself to the study of divinity, and was made rector of Kirk-michael†. After continuing four years in this situation, he went to Paris, the university of which was then deemed the first school in Europe for theology and philosophy. The canon and civil law were the fashionable studies of the times; and Elphinston acquired such proficiency in these branches of learning, that his reputation as a profound scholar attracted the attention of the university, and he was chosen professor of laws. His lectures were attended for six years, by a crowded audience of the students; but the improvement of his own mind was the particular object

\* It is said that William Elphinston amassed a considerable fortune by exporting pickled salmon.—*Gibson's Hist. of Glasgow.*

† Keith's Catalogue, p. 68.

object of his solicitude, and he canvassed the most abstruse and difficult parts of his profession with the most eminent and learned doctors of that age\*. After nine years intense study in France, he returned home at the earnest solicitations of his friends, particularly bishop Muirhead, who made him parson of Glasgow, and official of his diocese†. As a mark of respect, he was chosen rector of that university in which he had received the rudiments of learning. After the death of his friend and patron, Muirhead, he was made official of Lothian, by archbishop Schevez of St. Andrews; and at the same time was called to parliament, and to a seat in the privy-council. As his talents were of the most acute and discerning kind, he embraced subjects remote from his religious studies, and became conspicuous as an able politician, and skilful negotiator. In this capacity, he was employed by James III. on an embassy to France, in conjunction with bishop Livingstone and the earl of Buchan. It is said, that he managed so dextrously, that the old league and amity was renewed, and all cause of discord between the two kingdoms removed‡. The French monarch was so charmed with his conduct and conversation, that he loaded him with valuable presents. When he returned home, he was made archdeacon of Argyle, anno 1479, and soon after, bishop of Ross; but, in 1484, he was translated to the see of Aberdeen. His address

\* Hector Boece,

† Keith's Catalogue, p. 68.

‡ Ibid. 69.

address in diplomatic negotiation, induced the king to send him as one of the commissioners from Scotland to treat of a truce with England, and a marriage between his son and the lady Anne, the niece of Richard III.

When the earl of Richmond assumed the crown of England by the name of Henry VII. bishop Elphinston was sent to his court, with other ambassadors, to arrange the terms of a truce, which was accordingly settled for three years, on the 3d July, 1486. The discontent of the nobles threatening to involve the country in a civil war, bishop Elphinston mediated between them and the king; but finding it impossible to reconcile their jarring interests, he went to England about the latter end of the year 1487, to solicit the friendly interposition of Henry, as the ally of the Scottish king\*. Although this great and good man did not succeed in the negotiation as he wished or expected, yet James rewarded his fidelity by advancing him in February, 1488, to the office of lord high chancellor of Scotland, which he enjoyed until the king's death, when he retired to his diocese. During the time he remained at Aberdeen, he was occupied in correcting the abuses that had prevailed in the diocese, and in composing a book of canon law. But he was not long permitted to enjoy the calm of retirement,

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\* Crawford's Lives of the Officers of the Crown, vol. i. p. 30.

and was again called to the parliament that assembled at Edinburgh, the 6th October, 1488, to assist at the coronation of James IV. The earl of Bothwell, who then ruled as prime minister, suspecting that bishop Elphinston would not concur in an act of indemnity in favour of those who were concerned in the rebellion of the last reign, contrived to send him on an embassy to the court of Maximillian of Germany, with a proposal for a marriage between the king, and Margaret, the emperor's daughter; but the mission was ineffectual, as that lady had been previously promised to the prince of Spain, and was married accordingly before Elphinston arrived at Vienna.

Although the bishop did not succeed in this embassy, yet he performed a lasting service to the country in his way home, by settling a treaty of peace and amity between the states of Holland and the Scottish nation. This service was deemed of more importance than if he had effectuated the marriage, which was the particular object of his mission to the continent\*. In 1492, when the bishop returned, he was made lord privy-seal, and the same year appointed one of the commissioners on the part of Scotland, for the prolongation of the truce with England. But the truce was not strictly observed by the Scots, and a new commission was found to be necessary for the more effectual

\* Crawford's Lives of the Officers of the Crown, vol. i. p. 51.



effectual settlement of all existing differences. Bishop Elphinston was included in this commission, and the Scottish deputies meeting with the English at Edinburgh, the 21st June, they agreed to prolong the truce till the last day of April, 1501.

The distractions of the state being appeased, and tranquillity restored both at home and abroad, the bishop found leisure to attend to an object that he had long meditated, and which engrossed much of his thoughts. Religion and learning had been the chief pursuits of his life, and he wished to diffuse the happy influence of both over the north of Scotland. For that purpose he applied to the king to solicit the papal authority for the erection of the UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN, which was granted by a bull from Alexander VI., dated the 10th February, 1494. From this time the bishop bent all his attention to the completion of his design; and having applied to the king that he would permit the college to be founded in his royal name, letters-patent under the great seal were passed accordingly, erecting the college, and granting it large privileges. As a full and distinct account, however, of this valuable institution is to be found in the appendix, it is unnecessary to take further notice of it here.

Besides the erection and endowment of the college, bishop Elphinston left ample funds to build and to support a bridge over Dee. It is mentioned to the credit of this worthy man, that he never held any benefice in *commendam*, as was the case with most of the prelates of that time, but, from the revenue of the see

alone, made such savings as enabled him to execute these great works, which are so honourable to his memory. When not employed in the duties of his office, he devoted his leisure hours to writing the lives of the Scottish saints, which were occasionally read to the clergy of the diocese for their instruction in religion, and practical improvement in life. He also wrote the history of Scotland from the rise of the nation to his own time, which is still extant, and preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford\*. James IV. having precipitated the country into a war with England, in opposition to Elphinston's advice, who was cautious from experience, lost his life at Flodden-field, where the better part of the Scottish nobility also shared a similar fate. This circumstance so afflicted the venerable prelate's mind, which was once so strong and vigorous, that his wonted cheerfulness of spirits entirely forsook him, and his debilitated frame fast verged to the grave. The affairs of Scotland, however, being again in a distracted state, Elphinston, ever anxious to do good, made an exertion to attend Parliament, that he might offer his advice and counsel; but the fatigue of the journey exhausted his wearied body, and he resigned his soul on the 25th October, anno 1514, at the age of seventy-seven. His corpse was brought from Edinburgh, and interred in the collegiate church at Aberdeen, before the high altar.

This

\* Crawford's Lives of the Officers of the Crown, vol. i. p. 52.

This eminent prelate has justly obtained the encomiums of our historians, and no man more deservedly merited the meed of praise. Whether we view him as a divine, exercising the duties of his episcopal office, or as a statesman, directing the affairs of the nation, he is equally eminent. His love of learning, his integrity, and piety, were virtues that contributed to his own happiness : but his great talents and his fortune were devoted to the service of others, and sacrificed, not at the shrine of ambition, but on the altar of his country, and for the good of posterity.



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## CHAPTER VIII.

### CONTENTS.

[VARIOUS PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO ABERDEEN—LETTER FROM THE MAGISTRATES TO BISHOP DUNBAR, RELATIVE TO THE BRIDGE OF DEE—THE MAGISTRATES TAKE UPON THEM THE MANAGEMENT OF THAT BRIDGE, AND INTROMIT WITH THE FUNDS—FEUDS—DEATH OF JAMES V.—INTRODUCTION OF PRINTING—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COURT OF SESSION—BISHOPS OF ABERDEEN, VIZ. GAVIN DUNBAR, AND WILLIAM STEWART—HECTOR BOETHIUS.]

\* \* \* \*

**I**N October, 1514, John Marr was chosen provost. In February that year, £3:0:11 sterling, was paid to Andrew Fife for providing artillery to defend the town against the English; and, on the 20th March, a tax of £5 sterling, was imposed on the inhabitants, for the purpose of fitting up the blockhouse, and paying the gunners for six months, with four able-bodied men

men, to be employed to give notice of the approach of the English fleet, two of whom were stationed at the Bell-house, on the south side of the river, and directed to raise a fire as soon as the enemy appeared, in order to apprize the other two on the castle-hill, one of whom was to ring the common bell, to alarm the citizens. These precautions against the attack of an English fleet may have been very necessary ; but as it never made its appearance, the gunners had no opportunity of shewing their skill as engineers, nor the four men their alertness as watchmen.

On the 12th March, 1514, John Mar, the provost, with Sir John Rutherford, John Collinson, Gilbert Menzies, and Patrick Leslie, were chosen by the council as commissioners to the parliament. To defray his expence, the provost was allowed L.1 : 2 : 2 two-thirds sterling, and each of the others half that sum.

It was ordained by the council, May 11th, that no fresh salmon should be sold, until first presented in the market-place.

In the years 1516 and 17, Gilbert Menzies was provost. On the 2d January, 1517, the council fixed the price of the boll of wheat at one shilling sterling, and the loaf weighing twenty-six ounces, to be sold for one-sixth of a penny.

Gilbert Menzies, anno 1518, was again provost: and on the 4th July this year, the council and community agree to give the earl of Huntly three pieces of the town's best artillery, to be sent on their expence to Sutherlandshire, to enable the earl to attack the castle of Dunrobin, in consideration of the townsmen  
being

being exempted from marching against that place, and permitted to remain at home.

In the years 1519, 1520, and 1521, Gilbert Menzies was provost. July 12th, 1521: The provost is appointed to go to the king and council to raise letters of lawburrows against lord Forbes, to prevent him from molesting the tenants of the borough in their fishings and freedom lands\*.

So early as James I. the process of law-burrows was instituted; but by James IV. parl. 3. c. 27, it was enacted, "that upon complaint of a party, law-burrows be found that he shall be harmless and skaithless in his person or goods, under what pain the lord chancellor or justice shall modifie;" and on this statute the provost of Aberdeen complained.

September 16, 1521: The magistrates, by orders from the king, resigned their offices. A new election having taken place, John Collison was chosen provost; and on the 30th, the community ratified his election.

On August 11th, 1532, the whole community agreed to be taxed L.58 : 6 : 8, to be paid into the exchequer as a commutation of their military services, and to be relieved from joining the army at Roslin-moor, on the 1st September.

The duke of Albany, who was regent of the kingdom, and entirely devoted to the interest of France at that time, assembled a powerful army to invade England.

\* It was enacted by James V. parl. 4. ch. 27, "that no earl, lord, baron, nor other, molest burrows, their officers, or merchants, in using their liberties, under the pain of oppression."

land. They marched from Roslin on the 2d September; but many of the barons refused to advance beyond the frontiers of Scotland, as they considered the war to be impolitic; and after a fruitless attempt to take the castle of Wark, in which he lost 300 of the French troops, the regent retreated, and disbanded the army.

In 1521, 22, 23, and 24, Gilbert Menzies, of Findon, was provost. In August, 1524, the provost and bailie Collison, were chosen commissioners to represent the borough in the first parliament of James V. They were allowed 6s. 8d. per day, and furnished with eight horsemen to attend in their train, that they might appear at court with a splendour becoming the representatives of the opulent city of Aberdeen.

On October 3, 1525, Thomas Menzies of Pitfoddels, was chosen provost. In August that year, a letter from the king, said to have been written at the solicitation of bishop Gavin Dunbar, was sent to Sir John Ruthford and Thomas Menzies, the sheriffs, ordering them to search for those who owned the heresies of Luther, or read his books, that they might be punished in terms of the act of parliament, of which an extract was transmitted\*.

The

\* It was ordained by act James I. p. 2. c. 28. "that ilke bi-  
"shoppe sall garre inquire to the inquisition of heresie, quhair  
"ony seik beis founden, and that they be punished as law of  
"hailie Kirk requires. And gif it misteris, that secular power  
"be called, in support and helping of hailie Kirk."



The reformation of religion in Scotland was silently making progress at that time, and was secretly promoted by the intrigues of the English monarch, who, in his own country, had roughly overthrown the papal authority; but we shall afterwards have occasion to trace the progress of the new opinions in a chapter devoted to that subject.

On the 2d October, 1525, commissioners were appointed to let the town's lands and fishings for five years. By James IV. parl. 3. ch. 36, it was enacted, "that the rents of burrows be not set but for three years, under pain of nullity." But the statute in this instance seems to have been disregarded.

In 1526 and 7, Gilbert Menzies was provost. On the 1st April, 1527, the thanks of the magistrates and community were voted to the bishop of Aberdeen, for the active part he had taken in building the bridge of Dee. The necessary funds for the erection of that useful work had been entrusted by bishop Elphinston to Alexander Galloway; but during the three years that bishop Gordon filled the see, nothing had been done to forward the work, and it fell to the lot of bishop Gavin Dunbar to execute the intentions of the good bishop Elphinston, by completing the college and bridge of Dee, to both which, he largely contributed from his own revenue. The bridge being now finished, bishop Dunbar proposed that the magistrates of Aberdeen should take charge of it, and receive the funds for the purpose of keeping it in repair. Accordingly, the magistrates and burgesses assembled to consider

sider of the proposal, and after some deliberation, sent the following letter to bishop Dunbar :

" MY LORD,

" WE, your servants, the provost, bailies, coun-  
 " sellors, and whole community of Aberdeen, having got ex-  
 " plained to us by your commissioner, Mr. Alexander Hay,  
 " parson of Turriff, your good intentions with regard to the  
 " bridge built over the river Dee, and finished at your Lordship's  
 " great expence, for the common weal of the country and of us;  
 " for which good deed God Eternal reward your Lordship—we  
 " cannot. And whereas your Lordship desires of us and of our  
 " successors, to uphold the said bridge on your expence in the  
 " most sure way can be devised by wise men; and that your  
 " Lordship will infeft us and our successors in your lands of  
 " Ardlair, to be holden of you and your successors in fee, we  
 " heartily agree to the same, only making us sure thereof by the  
 " pope, the prince, and your church, with every other thing ne-  
 " cessary; for we desire no inconveniency, but only to be made  
 " sure, which is your Lordship's good intention. Yet notwith-  
 " standing, if you were pleased to infeft us in any of your lands  
 " lying nearer to us, or exchange said lands for others lying  
 " nearer to us, such as Rendraen, or sic like, it would be more  
 " profitable for preserving your Lordship's work, and more  
 " agreeable to us; however, we refer the whole to your Lord-  
 " ship's pleasure, beseeching you may labour the same, if it  
 " seem to you goodly. And moreover, we, considering the  
 " many good turns done by your Lordship within your diocese,  
 " both to our cathedral and other places, and understanding that  
 " your Lordship has no kirk within your diocese appropriated  
 " to your mitre, except our mother-kirk,—we would intreat  
 " your Lordship to give help to some notable actions intended  
 " to be done thereto, and to which we shall contribute our as-  
 " sistance in the largest form at sight of your Lordship, that  
 " some remembrances may remain of you, as of several of your  
 " reverend

“ reverend predecessors, to wit, Bishop Thomas Spence, and  
 “ Bishop William Elphinstone. But in this case as in all others,  
 “ we refer to your Lordship’s pleasure, to which we are greatly  
 “ indebted, as knows the great God Eternal, whom we humbly  
 “ intreat to preserve your Lordship’s soul and body.”

The magistrates and council accordingly “ agreed  
 “ to indent with my lord bishop of Aberdeen, for  
 “ keeping, upholding, and preserving his bridge over  
 “ the river Dee, for themselves and their successors,  
 “ so long as they bruiked peaceably the lands of Ard-  
 “ lair, given and assigned over to them by his lord-  
 “ ship ; but if the said lands should be evicted from  
 “ them or their successors, either by law or reason,  
 “ then they shall be no longer obliged to uphold the  
 “ said bridge, but from their own good-will and bene-  
 “ volence. And further, with this condition, that the  
 “ money arising from the profits of the said lands shall  
 “ be put in a sure keeping, for upholding the said  
 “ bridge, and not to be disposed of any other way ;  
 “ and that there be three keys made for the purpose,  
 “ one of them to be kept by the chapter ; another by  
 “ the provost and good town ; and the third by the  
 “ principal deacons of the craftsmen of Aberdeen ;  
 “ and this bond to be made out in the surest form, to  
 “ the effect above-written.”

In December the following year, the business rela-  
 tive to the bridge of Dee was finally settled. Robert  
 Elphinston, parson of Kincardine, and the parson of  
 Kinkell, appeared in court as commissioners for bishop  
 Dunbar, and gave in to the town of Aberdeen in name  
 of his lordship, the whole charge of the bridge of Dee,

and a charter to the lands of Ardlair, by the bishop, dean, and chapter. And the magistrates on their part, delivered to them an obligatory bond, sealed with the common seal of the borough, binding themselves to uphold the said bridge in all time coming, and to "re-build the same anew if need be." They also took the great oath, the crucifix being touched by them, that they should never apply the rents of the land to any other purpose.

In 1528, Gilbert Menzies was provost. The price of oatmeal this year was sixteen pence per boll.

The council ordained, that no man be chosen hereafter into the office of provost or bailie, but real indwellers within the borough, under the penalty of one hundred pounds Scots money, to be paid to the king's majesty, and that no burgess purchase a lordship over the town, under pain of losing his freedom.

It was enacted by James V. parl. 4. ch. 26, that the magistrates of boroughs should be "honest and substantial burgesses, merchants and indwellers thereof, under pain of tinsel of their freedom, who does in the contrary."

In 1529, 30, 31, and 32, Gilbert Menzies was provost.

In 1529, Arthur Forbes of Brux killed several of the inhabitants of the town, and commissioners were sent to the king to lodge a complaint against him. But on the 19th December the following year, the magistrates served letters of law-burrows against Pitsligo, Tolquhain, Corsindae, Brux, Echt, and other gentlemen of the name of Forbes; and my lord Pitsligo

ligo was obliged to find caution to the council at Perth for his own and friends good behaviour towards the town of Aberdeen. At that time a deadly feud subsisted between the Forbeses and Leslies; and it is probable that some of the town's people had interfered in that quarrel, which furiously raged throughout Aberdeenshire, and was attended by mutual massacres and murders.

On the 20th February, 1533, the magistrates and council order a blockhouse to be built at Sandness, of 36 feet in length, and 18 in breadth; the walls to be six feet thick, and of such a height as Thomas Menzies and Alexander Gray, the architects, shall deem expedient.

On the 6th October, Thomas Menzies was chosen provost. It was ordained at this time by the council, that if any person being in health, shall absent himself for two Sundays from the parish kirk, he shall pay eightpence sterling, to be applied to St. Nicolas's work.

On 5th October, 1534, Thomas Menzies chosen provost.

On 4th October, 1535, Andrew Cullen.

On 3d October, 1546, Gilbert Menzies of Findon.

In the years 1537 and 8, Thomas Menzies, the eldest son of Gilbert Menzies of Findon, was provost. On the 13th January, 1539, commissioners were appointed by a head court to let the lands of Ardlair; and they were instructed to let them to country farmers, and not to gentlemen of landed property. These

lands were accordingly let for five years as follows, viz. one plough-gate of the Intown at the rate of 11s. 1½d. sterling yearly; three other plough-gates at the same rent; and the plough-gate of Outfield, at 13s. 4d. Scots money. The tenants were bound to perform the usual carriages, and to reside on their farms.

During the years 1540, 1, 2, 3, and 4, Thomas Menzies was continued provost.

James V. died December 1542, in the palace of Falkland, at the age of thirty-three years and eight months, after a reign of twenty-nine years. His whole life had been spent amidst scenes of turbulence and distraction; but the defection of his army at Selway Moss, which surrendered to a handful of English, so chagrined his agitated mind, that he fell under the deepest melancholy, and either could not, or did not choose to receive any sustenance. After languishing for a few days, an affecting spectacle of the misery of kings, he resigned his breath, surrounded by those miscreants who had contributed to embitter his life. During the reign of this prince, the condition of the people had been somewhat improved. Several wise laws had been enacted, and the maritime towns had increased in opulence and power.

The art of printing was introduced by Chapman in the early part of his reign, and Thomas Davidson, a native of Aberdeenshire (anno 1532), was made printer to the king; and, in 1541, he printed the acts of parliament\*.

The

\* Manuscript in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.

The administration of justice occupied much of James's attention. The excellent acts which had passed in the reigns of the three first James's, relative to property, were almost totally disregarded; and their abuse had become an intolerable grievance. The authority of heritable jurisdictions was nearly paramount to all law; and ambulatory courts of justice, with trial by jury in civil cases, were but a feeble protection to the weak and innocent, against the oppressions of the strong and powerful, while appeals to the council were expensive, and consequently only within the reach of the more opulent of the community. The institution of the *Lords of Articles* was merely an engine in the hands of government, and formed no barrier to the encroachments of the crown. Some establishment, therefore, that was independent of party animosity, vigorous and permanent, was requisite for the better administration of justice\*. James accordingly had recourse to the parliament of Paris for the model of a similar institution in Scotland; and the establishment of the COURT OF SESSION was the result of his solicitude to promote the equal distribution of the law throughout the realm. On the 13th May, this year, the *Lords of Articles* laid before parliament the proposition for instituting this court, which was adopted, and fifteen members were appointed, consisting of seven churchmen and seven laymen, with a President. This court has continued to the present day with very

\* Guthrie, vol. v. p. 130.

little variation, and its jurisdiction is valuable and extensive; but every thing relative to it is so well known, that it is unnecessary here to enumerate its privileges and powers.

The doctrines of the reformed religion had taken root during this reign, and the clergy of the establishment, anxious to secure their livings and their influence, had lighted the faggot which consumed a few obstinate heretics, from whose ashes, however, arose a set of determined men that finally triumphed over the papal church.

The see of Aberdeen at the death of bishop Elphinston, was filled by Alexander Gordon, the third son of James, laird of Haddo, the ancestor of the earls of Aberdeen\*. He was first rector of Fetteresso, in the county of Kincardine, and next chantor of the see of Moray, from which he was promoted to the bishopric of Aberdeen. It is said that he was a man of a grave disposition, and extensive learning; but he did not long enjoy his elevated situation, for, being seized with a hectic fever, he died on the 20th June, 1518, within less than four years after the death of Elphinston.

Gavin Dunbar succeeded bishop Gordon. He was the son of Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock, by Jane, eldest daughter of the earl of Sutherland†. He was dean of Moray, and clerk-register about the year 1488. In 1503, he was archdeacon of St. Andrews, and lord-register. In 1518, he was promoted to the see of Aberdeen; but he still continued in the office

\* Keith's Catalogue, p. 70.

† Ibid. p. 71.



office of lord-register. He died on the 9th March, 1532, and was much regretted by his friends and the inhabitants of Aberdeen, to whom he had shewn great partiality on various occasions. He built the bridge of Dee, projected by bishop Elphinston, and contributed to the funds appropriated for that purpose by that worthy prelate. He also endowed an hospital for twelve poor men, which was erected after his death. It is said that the bishop was the first person who advised Hector Boece to write the history of his own country.

William Stewart succeeded bishop Dunbar in the see of Aberdeen. He was the son of Sir Thomas Stewart of Minto, by Isabel, second daughter, and one of the co-heiresses of Sir Walter Stewart of Arthursly, who was a brother of the family of Castlemilk. The city of Glasgow was the place of the bishop's nativity; and he was born, anno 1479, in the reign of James III. His parents having early perceived his genius for learning, took great care of his education, and sent him at the proper age, to the inferior seminaries, where he went through his juvenile studies with the applause of his teachers\*. He then entered to the university of Glasgow, where he applied assiduously to the study of philosophy and the *Belles Lettres*, and in due time obtained the degree of bachelor of arts. Having finished his studies at home, much to his own credit and improvement, he visited the continent, as was customary in those times, to learn in foreign schools,

\* Crawford's Officers of State, vol. i. p. 373.

schools, a more perfect knowledge of theology and the canon law. He devoted himself to the church, —he took holy orders, and was soon after made parson of Lochmaben, then rector of Ayr, and a prebend of Glasgow. In that station he remained till the year 1527, when he was preferred to the lucrative deanery of Glasgow, which at that time became vacant by the death of the learned Dt. Forman. The great merit and shining talents of Dr. Stewart attracted the attention of king James V., who called him by writ to parliament. His abilities, sagacity, and industry in business, qualified him for the most important offices in the state. He was therefore made lord high treasurer of Scotland, on the 2d October, 1530, in the place of Sir Robert Barton, who was removed. The king being desirous to advance the treasurer in the church, found an opportunity by the death of bishop Dunbar; and accordingly he was promoted to the see of Aberdeen, on the 14th November, 1532. Soon after his consecration, he was joined with Sir Adam Otterburne of Reidhall, in a commission of embassy to England, to treat with Henry VIII. relative to the continuation of amity and peace between the two nations; and the object of their embassy was successfully accomplished.

To the see of Aberdeen, bishop Stewart was a considerable benefactor\*. He built the consistory-house, enlarged the territory of the college, and bestowed upon it a part of the revenue which it still possesses.

After

\* Crawford's Officers of State, vol. i. p. 374.

After continuing to perform the duties of lord treasurer for seven years, he resigned that high office, and retired to his diocese, where he remained until his death, which happened on the 17th April, 1543. Bishop Stewart was a learned and worthy man, "*given to virtue, charitable to the poor, and ready to do every good work*."

During the reign of James V. Hector Boethius, Boece, or Boeis, flourished. He was the first principal of the college of Aberdeen, and his celebrity as a scholar and writer requires our particular notice.

Hector Boece was born in Dundee in Angus-shire (anno 1470), and descended from an ancient and honourable family. After finishing his education in this country, he was sent by his parents to Paris, where he studied philosophy, and became a professor in the college of Montague†. During the happy period of his residence in that seat of learning and science, he was extremely fortunate in his acquaintance with eminent men; and the great Erasmus, whom he calls "the splendour and ornament of the age," was his friend and companion. United by a similarity of disposition and of pursuits, they contracted a friendship that endured through life; and by frequent correspondence interchanged their knowledge and their sentiments.

When bishop Elphinston projected the college of Aberdeen, he fixed his choice on Boece as the most  
fit

\* Spottiswoode's Church History.

† M'Kenzie's Lives, vol. ii. p. 376.

fit person to perform the important duties of principal. He was accordingly called from Paris, and installed in the office. His labours in this seminary were commenced in conjunction with those of William Hay, who had studied with Boece at home and abroad, and whom he had assumed as his colleague. By the united exertions of Boece and Hay, the university acquired great celebrity, and several of their pupils were deemed the first scholars of the age.

Bishop Elphinston was the friend and patron of Boece, who became his biographer; but reflecting that many eminent men had filled the see of Aberdeen, previous to that time, he devoted a volume to their lives, which is justly esteemed a valuable work, and was published at Paris, anno 1523, by Badius Ascensus. In a few years afterwards, he produced "*Scotorum Historia ab illius Gentis origine*," which was also, in 1526, printed at Paris.

Hector Boece did not long survive the publication of his history of Scotland; but the precise time of his death we are unable to ascertain. Among authors, there is a great diversity of opinion as to the merits or defects of this history. His style is acknowledged by all to be elegant and classical; but the perversion of facts, and the intermixture of fabulous and legendary stories with true history, have greatly diminished the value of the work, as well as detracted from his character as a man of a sound and penetrating judgment.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### CONTENTS.

[ARRAN MADE REGENT—ENGLISH AND FRENCH FACTIONS—TREATY FOR THE MARRIAGE OF QUEEN MARY WITH THE SON OF HENRY VIII.—TREATY ANNULLED—CIVIL WAR—FEUDS—FRAZERS ENTIRELY CUT OFF—EARL OF HUNTLY PROVOST OF ABERDEEN—VARIOUS PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO ABERDEEN—WAR WITH ENGLAND—MARY SENT TO FRANCE—PEACE WITH ENGLAND—THE COURT AT ABERDEEN, &c.—INSURRECTIONS BY THE REFORMERS—MOB FROM ANGUS AND MEARNES—DEMOLITION OF RELIGIOUS HOUSES—SILVER WORK AND ORNAMENTS BELONGING TO ST. NICOLAS' CHURCH.]

\* \* \* \*

JAMES V. was succeeded by his daughter MARY, who was only seven days old when he died. In consequence of a forged will, cardinal Beaton assumed the government: but Hamilton, earl of Arran, claimed the regency, in consequence of consanguinity to the royal house, which occasioned a contest of parties, and Arran finally prevailed. On the 22d December, 1543, he

he was recognized as governor of the kingdom, and tutor to the queen; and the cardinal was imprisoned.

The parliament appointed a council for the regent, and the provost of Aberdeen was nominated as one of that body, which was composed of men of opposite principles, both as to religion and politics. The arrangements for the government of the kingdom were injudiciously settled, and produced corresponding effects. The regent was weak and timid. Two powerful parties divided the people; and the barons, according to their inclination or interest, attached themselves either to the English or to the French faction. Cardinal Beaton was at the head of the one, and the other was supported by the influence of the regent, the Douglasses, and the reformers.

The chief subject of dispute between the two factions was, the disposal of the queen. Henry of England wished to match her with his son Edward, as soon as she arrived at a proper age; and he was desirous to obtain the custody of her person, that the marriage might not be frustrated by the intrigues of the French party. A treaty of marriage was accordingly arranged with the consent of parliament and the approbation of the people; yet they were unwilling to deliver her into the hands of Henry, whose impetuous temper ill qualified him for the subtilties of political manœuvre; and his scheme was overthrown by the refined policy of the cardinal, who by arts, intrigue, and profound address, disconcerted the projects of the English monarch.

From motives of mutual interest, a reconciliation took

took place between the cardinal and Arran ; but the opinions and influence of the former prevailed in the Scottish council, and this infamous priest again directed the affairs of the nation. His plans of policy were favourable to the French interest, and hostile to the reformation. The marriage, and the treaty of peace with England, were annulled by the parliament which assembled in December, 1543. The act of nullity is still extant, and it unjustly blames Henry for a breach of treaties which it was his interest to fulfil : but it is evident, that the want of faith is to be attributed solely to the Scottish government.

The two factions had recourse to arms. Lennox headed the English party, and the regent was devoted to the French interest. They came in contact at Glasgow, where Lennox was defeated, and his army dispersed. The English monarch was greatly exasperated, and sent a powerful army by sea, which debarked at Leith, and set fire to Edinburgh. In the meantime, the regent collected his forces, and marched to Edinburgh to give battle to the English ; but they did not wait his approach, and hastily embarking the one half of their army, the other retired by land to Berwick. The regent advanced towards the frontiers of England ; but suspecting the fidelity of Angus, and the lords of his party, he ingloriously retreated before the English army.

The regent was merely a tool in the hands of Beaton, who was more anxious to suppress the doctrines of the reformers, by extirpating heretics, than to oppose the inroads of the English, who laid waste the southern

districts of Scotland. But the gallant earl of Angus reproached the regent for being misled by the cardinal and the clergy, in opposition to the better advice of the nobility, who were willing to sacrifice their lives in defence of the country, and desirous to be led against the English. His remonstrances had the desired effect; and the earl and regent set out for the southern frontiers. With a handful of followers they encountered the English at Ancram Moor, on the 17th February, 1545, and defeated them. The regent rewarded those who had contributed to the victory, and inviting the disaffected to resume their allegiance to their lawful sovereign, then returned to Edinburgh.

Since the death of James, the reins of government were but feebly held by the weak and vacillating Arran, who was unequal to the arduous duties of his office, and a laxity in the execution of justice occasioned the revival of feuds. The north of Scotland was embroiled, by the disputes of rival clans, in all the horrors of family warfare. An old quarrel had subsisted between the Frazers and Clanronalds, both of whom had refused to acknowledge any dependence on the earl of Huntly, who had been appointed lieutenant-governor of the northern parts of the kingdom. Huntly was at the same time at variance with the earl of Argyll, and the whole body of the Highlanders were divided between these two powerful chiefs; but they came to an accommodation without bloodshed, and dismissed their followers. While returning home, the Frazers were attacked by the Clanronalds, with superior



rior numbers, and entirely cut off, so that the name was preserved only by a new generation.

The earl of Huntly enjoyed the confidence of the citizens of Aberdeen, and was elected provost. On the 16th January, 1545, a head-court being convened, provost Menzies publicly resigned his office to the community, and the earl of Huntly was elected, to continue until Michaelmas next, and being present took the great oath faithfully to administer the office, and to defend the town's liberties. But immediately after, his lordship, with consent of the community appointed Thomas Menzies his deputy, of which office he accepted.

In the years 1545 and 6, George, earl of Huntly, was continued provost. On the 9th November, 1545, the council ordained, that the white and claret wine, lately imported in a French ship, should be sold at one penny one-sixth sterling, per pint, under pain of escheating the wine. From the frequent intercourse with France, wine was in great abundance in Scotland, and the selling price seems to have been occasionally regulated by the magistrates of boroughs. On the 7th October, 1547, the council ordained, that all wine bought at £1 : 6 : 8 sterling, per tun, should be re-tailed at two-thirds of a penny sterling, per pint ; if at £1 : 13s. sterling, per tun, at ten-twelfths of a penny sterling ; and if at L.2 sterling, per tun, at one penny sterling, per pint\*.—(See Note, p. 193.)

a 2

At

\* The Scotch pint measure contains four times the quantity of the English pint.

At Michaelmas, 1547, Thomas Menzies of Pitfodels, was elected provost, who accepted the office, to be held only during the pleasure of the earl of Huntly; and on the same condition, he continued for next year.

April 20th, 1549. The whole community agreed to tax themselves in the sum of L.83:6:8 sterling, to enable them to hire 400 stout men for defending the town against the English, who threatened to attack it during the ensuing summer. Two bailies were ordered to go through the city and inspect every house, to inquire if the inhabitants were provided with proper arms for the town's defence. On the same day, all freemen of the borough, residing on the landward part, were ordered to repair immediately to the town, and to remain there for its defence, under pain of losing their privileges.

These precautions of the magistrates of Aberdeen for the protection of the town, were extremely necessary, as the English then maintained the superiority at sea, and were in possession of the island of Inchkeith in the Forth, and Broughty Castle on the Tay, which had been re-victualled and reinforced; and its garrison had surprised the town of Dundee. Haddington and Dunbar were also in possession of the English; and lord Gray was at the head of a strong army at Roxburgh. Under these circumstances, the inhabitants of Aberdeen had just reason to apprehend an attack; and the magistrates accordingly prepared to resist it by hiring troops and arraying the citizens.

The war in which the country was then engaged, had

had commenced in 1547. Henry VIII. king of England, died in January that year, and on his death-bed, had recommended to his ministers the completion of the match between his son and Mary of Scotland, by force of arms, if persuasion should fail. The duke of Somerset, protector of England, prevailed on the council to approve of a war with Scotland, for which he immediately made preparations, and entered that kingdom in August, at the head of eighteen thousand well disciplined troops. The regent collected the whole force of the country to oppose the protector; but the native valour of the Scots was unequal to the better discipline of the English, and they were defeated on the 10th September, at Pinkie, with immense slaughter. The regent fled to Stirling with the remains of the army. The protector cruelly wasted the country, and then returned to London, with his spoils and his captives.

The war was continued, and lord Gray advanced to the gates of Edinburgh, A. D. 1548. At this time the plague was making great havock in Scotland, and a general despondency pervaded the kingdom. The unfortunate Mary was the innocent cause of the war; and it became indispensably necessary to adopt some decisive measure as to the disposal of her person. A parliament was accordingly summoned on the 7th July, 1548, and the French party obtaining the ascendancy in that assembly, Mary was sent to France, and betrothed to the Dauphin, the eldest son of Henry II. The object of contention being now removed, the English government was desirous of peace with the

Scots, and offered to enter into a truce for ten years with them; but they refused to listen to any terms of accommodation, unless the English would evacuate all the places they held in Scotland. The war was therefore continued with various success on both sides, until the beginning of the year 1550, when it was terminated by a treaty of peace between France and England, in which the Scots were included\*. But to return to the municipal regulations of the town of Aberdeen.

For the years 1549, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, Thomas Menzies of Pittfoddela, was elected provost of Aberdeen.

On the 2d March, 1552, the whole community were called by the hand-bell to assemble in the tolbooth to consider of a proposal to let in feu all the lands and fishings belonging to the town. Thomas Menzies, Thomas Chalmers, Alexander Rutherford, Robert Lumsden, David Marr, Alexander Knowles, and Walter Cullen, were unanimously appointed commissioners for that purpose, with full and irrevocable powers.

In May, the same year, the council ordered a *propine* to be given to the queen-dowager, the governor, and the lords who were with the court at that time in Aberdeen, viz. to the queen, three tuns of wine, with wax and spiceries to the value of L.1 : 2 : 2 two-thirds sterling. To my lord governor, three tuns of wine, two lasts of beer, with wax and spiceries in proportion. To the lords who are in their train, one tun of wine, and half a last of beer.

Patrick

\* Peace, March 20th, 1550.

Patrick Menzies and Thomas Neilson, who were lords of Bonaccord at that time, were allowed ten shillings, and a free man's composition, to indemnify them for the expences they incurred during the residence of the queen and court in Aberdeen.

In the year 1552, the queen-dowager, and the governor, Arran, made a progress through Scotland, as far as Inverness, for the purpose of holding courts and distributing justice. They remained for some time in Aberdeen, and it was customary on such occasions to make presents to the sovereign and his attendants.

For the years 1555, 6, and 7, Thomas Menzies was continued provost. On the 20th May, 1555, the provost and bailie Mar, were chosen commissioners to represent the borough in parliament; and L.1:13:4 sterling, was allowed to the provost, and half that sum to the bailie, to defray their expences. On the 23d November, 1557, provost Menzies was again appointed to represent the city in parliament. In that parliament, the queen's marriage with the dauphin of France was taken into consideration; but it does not appear that the subject excited much discussion. The queen-regent laid the French king's letter to the states of Scotland before that assembly, which met on the 14th December; and, in terms of the letter, commissioners were appointed to witness the ceremony, which was performed on the 24th April, 1558, by the cardinal of Bourbon.

In the year 1557, the town paid L.33.6:8 sterling, in lieu of military service.

For

For the years 1558-9, Thomas Menzies was continued provost.

The doctrines of the reformers had now made great progress in Scotland, and the country was convulsed by the propagation of their opinions. Insurrections had taken place, and outrages were committed in various parts of the kingdom. The tide of popular prejudice at that time run strongly against the established religion, and the mighty fabric of papal authority was tottering from its foundation.

On the 16th June, 1558-9, the chaplains of St. Nicolas appeared before the magistrates, who were assembled in the tolbooth, and presented a petition to them, representing, that they were well informed that certain persons in the southern parts of the kingdom, at their own hands, and without any authority, destroyed kirks, and other religious places, as well as the ornaments they contained; requesting, therefore, that the magistrates and council would be pleased to adopt such measures as would preserve the church of St. Nicolas from destruction, and also would take into their sure keeping the silver work and ornaments belonging to it, until tranquillity should be restored to the country by the suppression of such tumultuous and disorderly proceedings. This petition being read and considered, the magistrates and council unanimously resolved, that it was expedient to remove from the church the silver work and most valuable ornaments, that they might be put in sure keeping. An inventory of the different articles was ordered to be made out; after which they were to be delivered over to provost

vost Menzies, David Marr, Patrick Rutherford, and William Cullen, for preservation, under the obligation that they should again return them to the magistrates when called for.

Thomas Menzies was continued provost; and on the 29th December, 1560, the magistrates called a meeting of the whole inhabitants of the town, when the provost stated to them, that he had undoubted information, that certain persons of the congregation, from the counties of Angus and Mearns, were coming to the town, with an intention of destroying the churches, under the pretence of a reformation of religion. He therefore requested to know whether they would support him and his assistants in resisting these people, that the inhabitants might not incur the displeasure of the sovereign, and be deemed abettors of their crimes; at the same time protesting, that if they did not concur with him and his friends in a resolution to defend the churches, he and they might not be implicated in such atrocities; and accordingly took instruments in the presence of the whole assembly.

January 4th, 1560-1. The inhabitants of the town being assembled in the tolbooth, David Marr, treasurer, represented to the meeting, that a body of strangers, assisted by some of the town's people, had entered the religious houses of the grey and black friars, which they had demolished; and were carrying off the timber, lead, and slates, of these monasteries. He wished therefore to know if the meeting thought it expedient to preserve the remains of the timber work, the slates and stones, of these houses, and apply the proceeds

proceeds arising from a sale of them to the common good ; and also, whether the lands and funds belonging to the grey and black friars, should be appropriated to the town's use. The meeting agreed, and it was accordingly ordered, that the treasurer should intromit with the materials of the monasteries, and the lands and funds belonging to them. A proclamation to that effect was publicly made at the market cross, and the meeting bound themselves to relieve the treasurer from all danger or loss that might attend his interference with these subjects.

January 13th. The inhabitants being assembled in the tolbooth, they ordered that the keepers of the silver work and ornaments belonging to St. Nicolas' church, should deliver up the same to Patrick Rutherford, Alexander Knowles, John Lawson, and Gilbert Molyson, for which they granted a receipt according to the following inventory, viz.

		lbs.	ozs.
<i>Imprimis.</i> —	The eucharist, weighing	4	2
Item.	A chalice of our lady of pity, do.	1	3
Item.	Our lady's chalice of the south isle, do.	1	3½
Item.	St. Peter's chalice, do.	0	15½
Item.	Two pairs of censers, do.	2	6
Item.	Four crowats, and a little ship, do.	1	0½
Item.	A chalice of St. John the evangelist, do.	1	14½
Item.	The hospital chalice, do.	1	1½
Item.	Our lady's chalice of the brig chapel, do.	1	4
Carried forward,		15	2¼

Item.



			lbs.	ozs.
	Brought over,		15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Item.	St. Duthac's chalice, do.	- -	0	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Item.	St. Nicolas' chalice, do.	- -	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Item.	St. Clement's chalice, do.	- -	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Item.	The Rude chalice, do.	- -	1	0
			<hr/>	
			20	0 $\frac{1}{2}$

The following ornamental articles were also delivered over to the keepers, viz.

*Imprimis*—A cap of fine cloth of gold. Item—Another cap of gold, freezed with red velvet. Item—A cap; a chesabil with two tunicles, haill furnished with red velvet, flowered and indented with gold. Item—A cap and chesabil with tunicles, haill furnished with gold, freezed on green velvet. Item—Two caps of red velvet, orpheist with gold, weighing—20 lbs. 4 ozs.

The form of the receipt granted for the above articles is as follows, viz. " We, Mr Patrick Rutherford, " Alexander Knowles, John Lawson, and Gilbert Molyson, burgesses of Aberdeen, grant us to have received by the hands of Gilbert Menzies Elder, Gilbert Collison, Mr George Middleton, and the said Gilbert Molyson, burgesses of the said burgh, at " command and ordinance of the provost and haill " council, the great eucharist chalices and silver work, " together with the caps and ornaments specified, of " St. Nicolas' parish kirk in Aberdeen, in keeping; " whilk we oblige us to restore to the said provost " and council convened in semblable manner as they " were

" were, by their ordinance, when they require us  
" therefor. To the which we oblige us, our heirs,  
" executors, and assigneys, conjunctly and severally,  
" leally and truly, but fraud or guile."

On the same day that the silver work and ornaments of St. Nicolas' church were delivered to Patrick Rutherford and others, the council ordained that Mr. Walker, chaplain and overseer of the keepers of the kirk, should deliver to them also the sacramental piece of velvet figured with gold; the front piece of the high altar of red damask; the white veil of linen cloth; four velvet cushions; the cross, with the silver crucifix thereon; together with all the utensils of brass within the chapter. The council also ordered John Collison to deliver to the commissioners the two silver crowns of our lady and her son, for which they granted a receipt.

The council at the same time ordained, that the treasurer should appoint four men to guard the Greyfriars church, and prevent it from being pulled down; as the friars had abandoned the church, and consigned it to the care of the municipality.

On the 11th March, the inhabitants were convened, and they agreed to support the congregation to the utmost of their power, by furnishing men or money as the council should deem expedient, provided nothing was to be undertaken in opposition to the authority of the sovereign. The council, in consequence of this resolution, ordered that the community should be taxed to the amount of L.33 : 6 : 8 sterling, to maintain  
forty

soldiers for the service of the congregation ; and Gilbert Molyson, John Tuledaff, William Forbes, Andrew Hunter, and Robert Gray, were appointed assessors and collectors of the tax.

The reformation had now taken effect, and it is highly necessary to review the causes which had produced, as well as the progress and consequences of that important revolution, which shall form the subject of a separate chapter.

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*Note to page 183.*—Within four years after this time, the price of wines was regulated by statute. It was enacted by act of queen Mary, *stat. 5. c. 11*, that Bourdeaux wine imported by the *east seas*, should be sold at *L. 20* Scots per tun, or 10 pennies per pint ; and Rochell wine, at *L. 16* Scots per tun, or eight pennies per pint. If imported by the *west seas*, it was ordered to be sold, Bourdeaux wine at *L. 16* per tun, or at eight pennies per pint ; and Rochell wine, at *L. 12* or *L. 13* per tun, or at six pennies per pint.

This act prohibits the adulteration of wines—mentions the great quantity that is daily arriving—but complains of the high price.



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## CHAPTER X.

### THE REFORMATION IN SCOTLAND.

**F**OR many ages the authority of the pope had been paramount in the Christian church ; but he frequently intermingled his spiritual power with the civil institutions of nations, and a fulminating bull from the vicerent of Christ, occasionally overawed or intimidated princes and potentates. The purity of the original system of catholic faith was gradually debased by the introduction of gross absurdities ; and the unwise interference of the head of the church, in matters purely temporal, provoked the more rational part of mankind, whose experience had contradicted his pretensions to infallibility. But power is intoxicating ; and the Roman pontiffs grasped a dominion too extensive and unwieldy to ensure its long duration. The authority of the pope was only formidable when supported by the weakness and prejudices of men ; and the dawn of

literature shed a new light that dispelled the charm which had enveloped the human understanding in darkness and ignorance. The diffusion of the elegant language and refined sentiments of the Greek and Latin authors, introduced a taste for learning, and a love of inquiry, that spread throughout Europe, and exposed the doctrines of the church of Rome to severe investigation.

The sale of plenary indulgences which Leo X. committed to the order of Dominicans in Germany\*, aroused the envy of Martin Luther, who belonged to the Augustines, and he furiously assailed the whole fabric of church government. He made converts to his opinions, and the cry for reformation resounded throughout the north of Europe (anno 1517). The flame spread, and in a short time reached England. The introduction, however, of the reformed principles into that kingdom, was occasioned by the vices of its monarch. Henry VIII. having conceived a strong passion for Ann Boleyn, determined to divorce his wife, Catherine of Arragon, to whom he had been married eighteen years. The pope refused to sanction that base transaction, and Henry, in his resentment, assumed the title of Supreme Head of the English Church. He appropriated the wealth of the monasteries to himself, and alienated their possessions to secular purposes. Although his motives were impure, he corrected some abuses, and his resistance to the  
supremacy

\* Dr. Cook's History of the Reformation, vol. i. p. 154.

supremacy of Rome, was the prelude to the reformation in England.

In the reign of James V. the doctrines of Luther were secretly propagated in Scotland, and had made considerable progress among the barons and the people. The political state of the country at that period, facilitated the introduction of the reformed principles, and the contest between the monarchial and aristocratic interest, tended to weaken the arm of government, which only feebly supported the rights of the church. James courted the clergy, as forming a barrier between him and the nobles, who, on the other hand, naturally inclined to the people as their firmest support. The clergy were detested as the favourites of the crown, and the barons envied their wealth and power, which they wished to assume. The new opinions were, therefore, encouraged and protected from political considerations, and, in a few years, they sapped the mighty structure of the Roman church.

Persecution has been generally resorted to, as the best means of suppressing innovations in religion, but it has always failed, and the clergy in vain have lighted the faggot to consume their victims. James was disposed to agree with those of his counsellors who advised a vigorous proscription of the heretics, and he accordingly determined to act with firmness and resolution.

The doctrines of the reformation had spread among the clergy as well as among the laity; and Patrick Hamilton, abbot of Ferne, was the first who suffered.

Like all other enthusiasts, he died with fortitude (29th February, 1528), and was deemed a martyr\*. Henry Forrest, a benedictine friar, was the next victim (A. D. 1533). Norman Gourlay and David Stratton, two private gentlemen, were condemned to suffer, and expired in the flames, anno 1534. Keillor and Beveridge, two Dominican friars, with Sir Duncan Sympson, a priest, Robert Forrester, a gentleman of Stirling, and Thomas Forrest, vicar of Dollar in Perthshire, were condemned, and suffered. Russel and Kennedy shared a similar fate at Glasgow (1539). Cardinal Beaton, the relentless enemy of the reformers, obtained the condemnation of Sir John Borthwick (1540), in a numerous assembly of the nobility and clergy held in the cathedral church of St. Andrews; but, aware of his danger, Sir John refused to attend, and was only burned in *effigy*†. New defections from the church were discovered, and Cunningham, Hamilton, and the celebrated George Buchanan, were imprisoned upon suspicion of heresy, and probably would have died at the stake, if they had not effectuated their escape by flight.

A court of inquisition was projected by the cardinal and his party, and formally established under the sanction

\* Hamilton maintained, among other notions, "That a man " is not justified by works, but *by faith only*; that good works " make not a good man."—See *Dr. Cook's History of the Reformation*, vol. i. p. 145.

† Dr. Stuart's *History of the Reformation*, p. 12.



sanction of government. To allure James into the measure, they promised him a rich booty in the confiscation of the property of the reformed, and he yielded to their solicitations\*. The motives by which James V. was then actuated to support the Romish church, were no less disgraceful than those that had induced Henry of England to disclaim the papal supremacy. They were both interested, not for the sake of religion, but to acquire riches, and it was a matter of indifference to either, whom they plundered. The morality of kings has been often questioned; and when they have not been restrained by the fixed principles of a free constitution, they have generally become the enemies of the happiness of mankind.

Sir James Hamilton, of Fennard, was appointed president of the inquisitorial tribunal, and the heretics dreaded his severity†. But they contrived to ruin him by a false accusation of treason, and he was tried, condemned, and executed‡. The court of inquisition was now at an end; and by the death of Hamilton, the reformers obtained a victory.

Henry of England countenanced the reformers of Scotland, and with their assistance intrigued, through his ambassador, Sir Ralph Sadler, at the court of James, whom he wished to detach from the pope and the emperor, Charles V.§ He represented, that the wealth  
of

\* Dr. Cook's History, vol. i. p. 205.

† Dr. Stuart's History of the Reformation, p. 13.

‡ Ibid, p. 15.

§ Dr. Cook's History, vol. i, p. 193.

of the church would abundantly fill his coffers, and afford him an inexhaustible harvest of booty, if he established the reformation. But the policy of Beaton counteracted the projects of Henry, and the clergy appealing to the avarice of James, offered him a yearly pension of fifty thousand crowns, at the same time assuring him that one hundred thousand more should be annually lodged in the exchequer from the persecution of heretics\*. The influence of the clergy prevailed, and James entered into a war with Henry.

The state was convulsed by the animosities of the different orders. The clergy were contending for their power, their wealth, or, perhaps, their existence, and the nobility wished to share the accumulated spoils of the church. The former were justified in the maintenance of their rights by the law of the country, and a long prescription; but the latter were actuated by motives of personal aggrandizement. The cause of religion was a pretence that equally served the views of both parties; and the "good things of this world" were the real objects of contention.

When James V. died in 1542, cardinal Beaton assumed the regency, but was soon supplanted by the better pretensions of Hamilton, earl of Arran, who was supposed to be favourable to the reformation. He entertained in his house two celebrated preachers†, who were permitted to declaim against the errors of popery‡. But

\* Dr. Stuart's History, p. 17.

† John Rough, and Thomas Williams.

‡ Dr. Cook's History, vol. i. p. 298.

But family interest, and the intrigues of the queen-dowager and her party, produced a reconciliation between him and Beaton, and he became devoted to the French faction. He regretted his apostacy, and was anxious to be again received into the bosom of the church; "accordingly, he publicly renounced at Stirling " the opinions of the reformed, and received absolution " from the hands of the cardinal\*." To shew his sincerity in his new professions, he determined to undo all his former services in the cause of the reformation, and procured an act to be passed in parliament for the persecution of heretics. Cardinal Beaton obtained from the pope the dignity of legate *a latere*†, (1545,) which conveyed the highest ecclesiastical authority, and, in conjunction with the regent, proceeded with vigour to extirpate heresy. The town of Perth was the theatre of their first operations.—Robert Lamb was hanged; and Anderson, Reynold, Finlayson, and Hunter, suffered a similar death. A woman of the name of Stirke was drowned in a pool, and several of the burgesses of the town were banished. The cardinal was no less active in the other parts of his diocese; but the amiable George Wishart was the only other victim whose blood was shed by the orders of Beaton (1st March, 1546), for soon after the death of Wishart, the cardinal was assassinated within his own palace at St. Andrews, by Norman Lesly, and a small band of conspirators, on the 29th May, 1546‡.

The

\* Dr. Stuart's History, p. 34.

† Ibid. p. 42.

‡ See a particular account of this transaction in Dr. Cook's History, vol. i. p. 300, *et. seq.*

The assassins of Beaton were protected by the reformers, who deemed his murder a meritorious deed; and John Rough, who had formerly been chaplain to the regent, with John Knox, who soon after became so celebrated, joined them in the castle of St. Andrews, which they defended against all the power of the government. Knox fulminated his anathemas against popery with great success, and daily made converts among the people of St. Andrews, and all who heard him. The castle, however, was compelled to surrender (13th July, 1547), by a French force that invested it by sea and land. The garrison were carried to France, some of whom were imprisoned, and others, with John Knox, were sent to work in the galleys.

The surrender of the castle of St. Andrews gave a serious blow to the protestant interest in Scotland; but the country being involved in a disastrous war with England, the persecution of heresy was overlooked amidst more important considerations, and the principles of the reformation were silently and gradually making progress. A relaxation of ecclesiastical discipline had prevailed during the continuance of the war, from circumstances of urgent necessity. But when peace was restored in 1550, the regent found leisure to renew the work of persecution, and Adam Wallace was brought to trial in the church of Blackfriars in Edinburgh.—He was condemned, and suffered at the stake amidst the contumelious insults of the clergy.

The regent continued to oppose the progress of the reformation with no common zeal; and, in 1581, obtained an act of parliament to be passed, for holding the

the subjects of the realm in the true catholic faith, by forfeiting the goods of those, who, being excommunicated, should delay to reconcile themselves to the holy church. The regent made a progress through Scotland in 1552, accompanied by the queen-dowager, for the purpose of distributing justice; but his rapacity spared neither protestant nor catholic, and his tyranny excited the contempt and abhorrence of all parties. In the following year he resigned the reins of government into the hands of the queen-dowager, stipulating, that he should retain his duchy and pension, and that no account should be taken of his administration.

By the death of Edward VI. his sister Mary succeeded to the throne of England. She was a furious bigot, and restored the Roman Catholic worship in that kingdom. Her persecutions drove many of the protestants to Scotland, among whom were several preachers. They united themselves to the reformers, and greatly promoted the cause by their dexterity and address. The removal of Arran had weakened the power of the church, and the reformers were now too numerous and too determined to be easily overawed. John Knox again appeared among them, and many of the nobility and gentry invited him to their houses, and partook with him in the ordinances of the gospel according to the reformed method: Knox possessed a bold, an intrepid, and a daring spirit, which no terrors could daunt, and no dangers could alarm. Fearless and undismayed, he firmly avowed his hatred to the church of Rome, by openly assailing her doctrines, her canons, and institutions. He was summoned to  
appear

appear before an ecclesiastical court to be held in the church of Blackfriars in Edinburgh, and he attended on the appointed day, accompanied by a numerous body of his adherents (15th May, 1556). The priesthood were intimidated, and did not choose to proceed in the prosecution, which so emboldened Knox, that he publicly declaimed to crowds in the capital city of Scotland. The earl of Glencairn, who had adopted the opinions of this reformer, prevailed on the earl Marischal to hear him preach, and he also became a convert. The former delivered a letter from Knox to the queen-regent on the subject of the reformation, which she treated with disdain. In the meantime, he received an invitation to take charge of the English congregation at Geneva, which he accepted. The clergy were encouraged by his departure, and they again cited him "when they were certain he could not appear, condemned him as a heretic, and ordered him to be burned in effigy at the cross of Edinburgh\*."

In the absence of Knox—Hurlaw, Willocks, Methven, and Douglass, were the champions of the protestant cause. Desertions from popery occurred daily in every town and village; and many members of the church, both secular and regular, embraced the principles of the reformation. The zeal of the populace broke forth in acts of wanton outrage, and everywhere the priests were insulted in the most indecent manner,  
at

\* Dr. Cook, vol. ii. p. 12.

at the instigation of the protestant preachers. The government was feeble, and the reformers were powerful from their numbers, their ardour, and their enthusiasm. Men of consideration now courted them ; and the earl of Glencairn, the lord Lorn, Erskine of Dun, and Stewart, prior of St. Andrews, offered to be their leaders. They entered into a correspondence with John Knox, who advised, exhorted, and encouraged them to persevere in the great work of reformation. A bond of agreement was formally entered into (2d December, 1557), which is denominated "*The First Covenant*," and all those who favoured their opinions were invited to subscribe it. The earls of Argyle, Glencairn, and Morton, with Lorn and Erskine, were the first who sanctioned this deed with their signatures\*, and they now assumed the *imposing* appellation of the *Congregation of Christ*.

After the leaders of the reformation had subscribed the covenant, they pressingly urged John Knox to return to Scotland, and solicited John Calvin of Geneva to enforce their entreaties. The clergy were alarmed, and they made another effort to suppress heresy, by the trial, condemnation, and execution of Walter Mill, a decrepid and debilitated old man. He suffered with fortitude and resignation, and this unnecessary act of severity exposed them to general reprehension. The reformers now became furious, and rather than submit to farther oppressions, resolved to vindicate their cause  
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by

\* Dr. Cook's History, vol. ii. p. 31.

by the sword. But it was prudent to ascertain their strength, and accordingly emissaries were dispatched throughout Scotland to inflame the people, and to obtain signatures to the new covenant. The leaders were supported by immense numbers, who were attracted by the love of change—animated by zeal—and actuated by considerations of personal interest. But before they should proceed to extremities, they deemed it advisable to address the queen-regent in the language of supplication, and peaceably to request a redress of grievances. A manifesto, and articles of reformation, were accordingly drawn up, and presented to the queen by Sir James Sandilands of Calder (anno 1558). Their demands tended to overthrow the whole fabric of the church, and she was sufficiently perplexed, but thought it the most prudent plan to temporise with the congregation; assuring their commissioner, that every thing they could legally demand, should be granted to them, and that in the meantime they might employ the vulgar tongue in their religious exercises, which was one of their chief requests.

The meeting of parliament approached, and the congregation resolved to petition the three estates, and hastily drew up certain articles, which they wished to be passed into a law. They desired that all the acts against heresy should be abrogated—that the clergy should have only the power to accuse—and that all transgressions in matters of faith should be decided upon by the temporal judge; and, “in fine, they requested, that no protestant should be condemned for  
“ heresy,



" heresy, *without being convicted by the word of God, of the want of that faith which is necessary to salvation\*.*"

These articles were presented to the queen-regent for her approbation; but she objected to the expediency of the proposal at that time, and used the same arguments to evade compliance with their requests, as have been since employed by modern ministers of state, to elude the petitions of the people of Great Britain for a just and equal representation in parliament. She stated *the dangers of innovation, and recommended it to them to wait for a more convenient opportunity of pressing their purposes.*

The leaders of the congregation were dissatisfied with this answer, and they began to suspect the sincerity of the queen-regent. Without her consent, their petitions could not be passed into a law, although carried in parliament. They therefore did not present them; but caused a solemn declaration to be read there, in the form of a protest, in which they intimated, that if insurrections and tumults should disturb the realm, and if abuses should be corrected by violence, all the guilt, disorder, and inconvenience thence arising, should not be ascribed to them, but to those solely who had refused to redress their wrongs. This protest fully developed the views of the congregation, and was a species of manifesto tantamount to a declaration of war, or at least betrayed a determined resolution to enforce their claims at the hazard of rebellion.

\* Dr. Stuart's History, p. 106.

Such bold and unequivocal language could not fail to impress the queen-regent with a just sense of the danger that threatened the government, and with the full conviction that the protestants were resolved to carry matters to an extremity. She prepared accordingly to maintain her authority, and to defend an insulted government to the utmost of her power. The preachers were the peculiar objects of her resentment, and citations were sent to them to appear at Stirling, to answer to the charges which might be preferred against them (anno 1559). In the meantime, the reformation was established at Perth, the inhabitants of that town having publicly embraced the new opinions. The preachers prepared to obey the citations, and marched towards Stirling, accompanied by an immense concourse of their friends. The queen-regent was intimidated, and to prevent the dreadful consequences that might ensue from the trial of the preachers, it is said, she agreed to abandon the prosecution against them. The multitude dispersed, and the barons and gentlemen of the congregation remained at Perth, which was the hot-bed of the reformation.

The preachers, however, were denounced rebels by the government, for non-appearance on the day of trial, notwithstanding the agreement with the queen-regent, which the congregation certainly deemed valid, but which, if it ever existed, was evidently extorted by threatenings and terror. At this important period, John Knox arrived at Perth (May 11th, 1559), and thundered against idolatry\*. His style of declamation

\* Dr. Cook's History, vol. ii. p. 78.

nation was composed of vulgar expressions, and gross abuse. It suited the rabble, whom he inflamed to madness, and they operated upon his principles. The monasteries of the Carthusians, the Grey and Black friars, were demolished, and the sacred utensils, with every thing within the walls of these edifices, were eagerly seized by the plunderers\*. The rage for destruction spread, and in Cupar in Fife, the church, with its pictures and altars, was defaced. Matters were now brought to an extremity, and both parties prepared for war. The gentlemen of Fife, Angus, and Mearns, with their dependents, joined the standard of rebellion, and formed a camp in the neighbourhood of Perth. The earl of Glencairn hastened to it with 2500 men from the shire of Ayr. The government was overawed, or wanted energy, and a treaty took place between the reformed and the queen-regent (29th May, 1559). The most important article of this treaty was, that in the approaching assembly of

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\* Dr. Cook, who in general speaks favourably of John Knox, and in various instances ably apologizes for his violence, does not seem to be convinced that he was entirely innocent in regard to the burning of the monasteries of Perth. He says, vol. ii. p. 79, " These outrages were committed by the people in opposition, as Knox mentions, to the admonitions of the preachers, and to the orders of the magistrates. He probably intended this observation as an apology for the higher classes of the protestants; but it cannot be supposed that he himself vehemently condemned what had been done, for he soon afterwards instigated those who heard him to similar destruction."

the three estates, the work of the reformation should be finally established.

The congregation, however, suspecting the sincerity of the queen-regent, still farther strengthened themselves by entering into a new bond of union and support, which they termed "*The Second Covenant*" (31st May, 1559). The queen-regent is accused of having broke faith with the congregation; and it is certain, that she seized and garrisoned the town of Perth with French soldiers, and banished some of the most turbulent of the inhabitants. The reformers received a great accession of strength in the earl of Argyll, and the lord James Stewart, who at this time deserted the court and joined them; and the preachers were uncommonly assiduous in exciting the people to acts of outrage. John Knox was the most conspicuous and the most persevering agent of the whole, in the barbarous transactions of those times. He harangued the mob in St. Andrews, and the consequence was, that all the churches of that city were divested of their ornaments and grandeur, and the monasteries of the Dominican and Franciscan friars were demolished\*.

The queen-regent, astonished and indignant, determined to suppress these violent proceedings, and ordered her troops to assemble at Cupar in Fife. But the lords of the congregation were active, and collected a force that outnumbered her army, and she was once more compelled to submit to a humiliating truce,  
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\* Dr. Stuart's History, p. 120.

as a prelude to a peace. The truce, however, expired without producing peace, and the congregation pursued offensive operations. They besieged and took the town and garrison of Perth. The success of their first exploit raised their hopes and expectations; and the furious multitude doomed the destruction of the palace and abbey of Scone\*. The hardy John Knox hesitated, and it is said, that he wished to save these noble edifices, but we can scarcely believe that he was sincere, and the flames levelled them with the ground. The monasteries of the town, and in the neighbourhood of Stirling, shared a similar fate. The fine abbey of Cambuskenneth was no more respected than others; and over the smoking ruins of these stately structures, the gloomy mind of the protestant contemplated with savage pleasure the downfall of popery.

After remaining three days at Stirling, the congregation marched to Linlithgow, and thence to Edinburgh. Havock followed in their train; and terror-struck, the queen-regent fled to Dunbar. In the monasteries every thing that the piety of generations had consecrated as sacred, was destroyed; but whatever was of value and use was seized and carried off by the professors of a new morality.

The congregation resolved to remain for some time in the seat of government; and after purifying the churches from the pollutions of popery, they appointed preachers of their own principles to expound to the people

\* Dr. Cook's History, vol. ii. p. 194.

people the mild and benign doctrines of the gospel: From the character of their leader, John Knox, we may conjecture the nature of the humanity they taught, and the religion they practised. To arouse the minds of the people to a sense of duty, the queen-regent issued a proclamation, ordering the congregation to retire from Edinburgh within six hours. She declared, that their object was to subvert the government under cover of religion, and appealed to their atrocities as a convincing proof of their intentions\*. The protestants answered this proclamation by an address to the queen-regent (2d July, 1559), in which they stated, that they did not wish to usurp the sovereign authority, but only to promote and set forth the glory of God, and to defend the true preachers of his word. To satisfy her that their views were confined to religious objects alone, they proposed a conference by commissioners, for the purpose of terminating all disputes. The court assented to this proposal, and commissioners from both parties met accordingly at Preston, but they came to no conclusion, and the queen-regent marched with her army to Edinburgh. The troops of the congregation had gradually diminished in numbers from inactivity, or more probably, from the want of regular pay, and a desire in each man to secure at home the plunder he had obtained by acts of sacrilege and impiety. It is certain, however, that they were in no situation to oppose the queen-regent.

\* Dr. Cook's History, p. 140.

regent by arms; and to avert the danger that threatened them, they proposed terms of accommodation, and a treaty was accordingly ratified on the 24th July, 1559.

It was stipulated on the part of the congregation, that Edinburgh should be open to the queen-regent; that the palace and instruments of coinage should be delivered up to her; that the protestant lords and people should obey the laws, and abstain from injuring papists, or destroying churches, religious houses, and images. On the part of the queen-regent, it was agreed, that no garrison of French or Scottish mercenaries should enter into the city of Edinburgh, and that the inhabitants should adopt the reformed religion or popery at pleasure, and that in other places of the kingdom, a similar indulgence should be allowed to the protestants and their preachers.

The leaders of the congregation proclaimed by sound of trumpet, the particular articles of the accommodation with the queen-regent\*, and then proceeded to Stirling, where they held a council on the state of their affairs. Pretending to be still suspicious of the sincerity

\* This proclamation misrepresents the terms of the treaty, and throughout bears a spirit of turbulence, disaffection, and rebellion, that plainly evinces the hostile intentions of the congregation. As to this matter, the author would refer the reader to Dr. Cook's valuable history, vol. ii. pages 162, 3, and 4, where he will find this transaction illustrated by the reflections of a candid and liberal mind.

sincerity of the government, they entered (1st August, 1559), into a new league for their mutual defence, which they called "*The Third Covenant*\*, and resolved, in the event of being again disturbed, to apply to foreign powers for assistance. The queen-regent was no less solicitous to strengthen her power, and demanded and obtained supplies of men and money from France. The arrival of the French troops excited a strong sensation in the minds of the people, and a proclamation from the queen-regent, with the answer of the protestants, only served to increase the irritation. The contending factions, by their mutual reproaches and menaces, diffused the spirit of violence and hostility throughout the country.

The lord James Stewart, and the other leaders of the congregation, again assembled at Stirling, and were joined by the earl of Arran, the eldest son of the regent of that name†. He was a fiery, impetuous young man, who had conducted himself improperly in France, and therefore had become obnoxious to the princes of Lorraine. He now burned with rage and revenge, and warmly entered into all the extravagant measures of the reformed. His father, the duke of Chatelherault, participated in his resentments, and also joined the congregation. This man had several times changed his religious principles, which were always subservient to his political views; but in that respect he

\* Dr. Stuart's History, p. 135.

† Dr. Cook's History, vol. ii. p. 178.



he was not more despicable than many others of the leaders of the reformation.

The queen-regent, in the meantime, fortified the town and port of Leith, which alarmed the congregation, as indicating her intention to recur to hostilities; but they knew their strength, and had no aversion to another appeal to arms. They accordingly addressed her in a letter of expostulation, couched in strong terms, dated at Hamilton, the 29th September, 1559. They accused her of infringing the ancient laws and liberties of the state, and of breach of faith, by fortifying Leith without any provocation on their part; although it was evident that their resolution to solicit aid from foreign powers, was an act of treason against the sovereign.

The queen-regent did not return any explicit answer to this letter; and the confederated nobles had recourse to arms. Mutual manifestoes were circulated by the two factions, vindicating their conduct. But the congregation committed the first act of hostility by the seizure of Broughty Castle; and afterwards they marched to Edinburgh. The queen-regent retired from the palace to Leith, and put herself under the protection of the French troops. They addressed a new admonition to her, which she treated as presumptuous, and sent the lord Lyon, king at arms, to command them to disperse, under pain of high treason\*.

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\* Dr. Cook's History, vol. ii. p. 190.

The associated lords deliberated on the measures to be adopted, and they assembled a council of nobles, barons, and burgesses, to whom they proposed the question, "Is it fit or not, that the queen-regent should controul the commonwealth, and subject the people to bondage\*?" This momentous question seemed to stagger the assembly, who were struck with the novelty and awfulness of their situation. It was an unexampled era in the annals of Scotland; but John Knox and John Willocks were at hand, and the matter was artfully referred to them. The latter analogically deduced the lawfulness of the deposition of kings from examples in scripture; and the former asserted, that the incurable sins of the queen-regent were sufficient reasons for depriving her of the high office. All doubts were now removed by these oracles of impiety, and, in one voice, the assembly found her guilty. The nobility, barons, and burgesses, concurred in subscribing an act of suspension, which was published in the chief cities of Scotland†.

The queen-regent, however, defended Leith, which the congregation summoned in vain to surrender; and their soldiers became clamorous for pay. They broke  
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\* Dr. Stuart's History, p. 145.

† This edict was notified to the regent by a letter dated at Edinburgh, 23d October, 1559, and signed by the duke and earl of Arran, the earls of Argyle and Glencairn, the lords James of St. Andrews; Ruthven, the master of Maxwell; the barons Tullibardine, laird of Dun, laird of Petarrow, and the *provost of Aberdeen*, for the burrows.—*Stuart's Hist.* p. 238.

out into acts of mutiny, and even threatened to suppress the reformation for a proper reward\*. The leaders of the congregation and the rabble that followed them, were both equally unprincipled. It was not religion, but plunder, that was the object of their pursuit. The lands of the church were the prize that tempted the barons; and theft, robbery, and every species of depredation, constituted the bond of union among their followers.

The firmness and address of the queen-regent perplexed the congregation; and she found traitors among them who betrayed their councils. They applied to the governor of Berwick for a supply of money, which was granted, to the amount of four thousand crowns; but the earl of Bothwell intercepted Cockburn, the bearer of it, and discomfiting his retinue, made a prize of the English subsidy†.

Inactivity is generally fatal to an insurrectionary army; and the congregation, to occupy their troops, made an attack on Leith. But cruelty is no symptom of bravery, and the soldiers of the congregation were as dastardly when opposed by disciplined troops, as they had formerly been ferocious, when resisted only  
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\* Dr. Cook says, "The mercenary soldiers became tumultuous—threatened their officers who attempted to restore order —and with a total contempt of principle, declared, that for ample pay they would cheerfully desert the cause which they had supported, and fight in defence of the Romish faith."—Vol. ii. p. 229.

† Dr. Stuart's History, p. 151.

by monks, and the inanimate images of saints. The French made a sally—took their cannon—and drove them back to Edinburgh. This paltry conflict elated the hopes of the queen-regent, and augmented the despondency of the congregation. A second skirmish took place, in which the French had also the advantage; and the protestants began to suspect that their affairs were desperate. William Maitland, the queen's secretary, joined the confederated nobles at this time, and as he possessed talents without integrity, he was gladly received. All his eloquence, however, could not persuade them to remain longer in Edinburgh, and, panic-struck, they tumultuously retreated to Stirling\*.

Knox harangued the congregation at Stirling, and attributed their misfortunes to their sins; but at the same time assured them, that the goodness of their cause would triumph over every obstacle, and exhorted them to unanimity and perseverance. A council was called, and a formal embassy dispatched, to solicit aid from queen Elizabeth of England. The ambassadors, Maitland and Melville, were successful in this application; and Elizabeth agreed to furnish the congregation with the necessary supplies of men and money for carrying on the war.

The confederated lords, in the meanwhile, separated, and went to different districts of the kingdom, to inspire the people, and to court new partizans†. The duke

\* Dr. Cook's History, vol. ii. p. 232.

† Dr. Stuart, p. 158.

duke of Chatelherault took possession of the castle of Glasgow, which belonged to the archbishop of that see, and destroyed all the images and altars in the churches. The French forces approaching, he precipitately fled ; but when they retired to Edinburgh, he again occupied Glasgow. In the name of Francis and Mary, he issued a proclamation, commanding all the clergy who had not yet joined the congregation, to appear before it, and abjure popery ; threatening, that those who refused to comply, should be accounted *enemies to God, and to true religion*\*.

The dispersion of the confederated lords raised the expectations of the queen-dowager ; and amidst excessive exultations, she re-established the popish form of worship in the churches of Edinburgh. The intelligence, however, that it was Elizabeth's intention to support the congregation, tended to damp her spirits, but not to slacken her military operations. She saw the importance of striking a blow before the arrival of succours from England, and accordingly ordered the French troops to march to Stirling, and to take possession of the county of Fife, and castle of St. Andrews. They retaliated the cruelties of the reformers, by wasting their grounds, and exercising violent acts of oppression on the lives and properties of those who had distinguished themselves by their zeal against popery. The lord James Stewart, with only five hundred horse, and one hundred foot, kept in check for twenty days, the

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\* Dr. Stuart, p. 159.

French army, which consisted of four thousand men, by harrasing them incessantly with skirmishes; and the English fleet having arrived at this critical moment in the Forth (15th January, 1560), Monsieur D'Oysel, with the French army, hastily retreated to Stirling.

The lords of the congregation sent commissioners to Berwick to meet the duke of Norfolk, who was authorised by Elizabeth to enter into a formal treaty with them, which was accordingly concluded the 27th February, 1560. The queen of England engaged to furnish an army for their service, and to aid their cause with her fleet. The congregation, on their part, stipulated to support Elizabeth by sea and land, to the utmost of their power, if her territories should be invaded by a French army. The terms of this treaty were highly in favour of the reformers, and their spirits were proportionally elated\*. The English army, consisting of twelve hundred horse, and six thousand foot, under the command of lord Gray, entered Scotland; and the duke of Chatelherault, the earls of Argyll, Glencairn, and Monteith, the lord James Stewart, and the lords Ruthven, Boyd, and Ochiltree, joined the English commander at Preston, with a numerous and formidable force†.

Despairing of supplies from France—afflicted with sickness

\* The substance of the most material articles of this treaty may be seen in Dr. Cook's History, vol. ii. p. 258 and 4, or at more length in the third book of John Knox's History.

† Dr. Stuart, p. 167.

sickness—and overwhelmed with inexpressible anguish of mind, the queen-dowager retired from Leith to the castle of Edinburgh, and claimed the protection of the lord Erskine, who had received that fortress in trust from the three estates, and had honourably observed a rigid neutrality; and although in this instance he was guided by the dictates of humanity, yet he still meant to adhere to his duty. The confederated lords held a council at Dalkeith, where they had assembled; and, in correspondence with their usual policy of addressing the queen by letter, previously to the commencement of hostilities, they invited her to an amicable conclusion of the present troubles. But the object of their letter was evidently an apology for their conduct, to answer the double purpose of a vindication and a manifesto. Their professions were hypocritical, and their arguments delusive; but in their conduct they were unequivocal, bold, and determined.

The combined army marched to Leith, and a conflict ensued, in which the French were defeated with the loss of about three hundred men, and Leith was invested. During the siege, however, the French made a sally, and entering the trenches of the combined army unobserved, put six hundred of them to the sword, while they were resting in careless security. At this time the queen-regent received supplies of money and military stores from France; but she was still unable to make any effectual stand against the combined forces. Various artifices, however, were

attempted by the French agents to obtain delay, by amusing the lords with proposals of treaties which they had no authority to conclude. But the affairs of the congregation were too prosperous to admit of concession on their part; and that their resolutions might be irrevocably fixed, they again entered into a *League and Covenant* (27th April, 1560), more solemn and awful than any they had yet subscribed\*.

The siege of Leith was vigorously prosecuted; but the French garrison, which consisted of four thousand men, bravely defended the place, and repulsed a general assault of the combined army. A scarcity of provisions began to distress the inhabitants of Leith, and a reinforcement of two thousand men arriving from England, the besiegers had a manifest superiority over their adversaries: but brave men will always do their duty, and they still kept the united army at bay.

Overpowered by distress of mind, and wasted by a lingering distemper, the queen-regent expired in the castle of Edinburgh, the 10th June, 1560. Her conduct is the best illustration of her character, and if she had some faults, she also possessed many virtues. In turbulent times it is difficult for the rulers of nations to act with impartiality; but it is quite impossible to please all parties. Her great defect seems to have been, that she was too much devoted to the French interest, and did not maintain with true dignity, the rights of an independent kingdom; but in her opposition to  
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\* Dr. Stuart, p. 173.

† Ibid, p. 175.



the reformers, she was probably guided by principle, or at least prompted by the prejudices of her early education\*.

By the death of the queen-dowager, the garrison of Leith were reduced to a state of despondency bordering on despair. They were closely blockaded by sea and land, and the French nation was in no condition to send them supplies. In this critical situation of affairs, it appeared to Francis and Mary, that a negotiation for peace was the best expedient to terminate the troubles of Scotland. But that the dignity of the crown might not be compromised, by treating with those whom it deemed rebels, they addressed themselves to queen Elizabeth. Commissioners on both sides were accordingly appointed, to whom also were joined representatives from the confederated lords. The congregation enumerated their grievances in a formal petition to Francis and Mary; and by the authority of the respective parties, the acting plenipotentiaries of France and England drew up a deed of relief and concession (6th July, 1560). By the terms of this agreement, Francis and Mary engaged, that foreign troops should not be introduced into Scotland without the consent of the three estates—that no new fortress should be erected, and no old one repaired, without the sanction of parliament—that the laws and liberties of Scotland should be respected—that the natives

\* Dr. Cook finely draws the character of this amiable woman in the 2d volume of his History, p. 290, *et. seq.*

natives of Scotland only should be employed in the great offices of state—that a parliament should be held to discuss the affairs of the country, and that its acts should be binding on all parties—that a council should be elected by the estates in concurrence with the queen, for the administration of affairs during her majesty's absence—and, that an act of oblivion should cancel the remembrance of all past transactions\*.

As matters of religion were referred to the consideration of the ensuing parliament, which the influence of the confederated lords could model as they pleased, they considered this treaty as the triumph of their cause, and that the great work of the reformation was nearly accomplished.

The peace was immediately proclaimed (7th July, 1560), and the armies of France and England returned home. A thanksgiving was ordered, and the commissioners of boroughs, with several of the nobility and tenants *in capite*, were appointed to choose and depute ministers to preach the gospel in the principal towns in Scotland. John Knox was called to Edinburgh, Christopher Goodman to St. Andrews, Adam Heriot to Aberdeen, and others to Perth, Jedburgh, Dundee, Dunfermline, and Leith. Superintendants of districts were also appointed to watch over the ecclesiastical affairs of the kingdom; and thus, with scarcely more than

\* See a transcript of the treaty in the appendix to Dr. Stuart's History, No. xxi.

than a dozen of men, the preaching of the reformed church commenced in Scotland\*.

The meeting of parliament approached; and, excited by curiosity, or attracted by zeal, immense crowds attended. This parliament presented a motley group of barons and prelates; tenants in *capite*, who personally appeared; commissioners for boroughs; and, in fact, all persons assembled, who had a right from law or usage, to appear at such meetings.

It was objected to the legality of this parliament, that Francis and Mary had not empowered any person to represent them; but formalities were of little importance at such a time, and the objection was overruled by a majority of votes. The first step of its proceedings was the nomination of the *Lords of Articles*; and as the protestant party was superior to the popish, they took care to elect the members of this committee from the leaders of the congregation.

The first thing to which the lords of articles called the attention of parliament, was the supplication of the nobility, gentry, burgesses, and all those professing the new doctrines, or, as they expressed it, *professing the Lord Jesus*. This curious petition required that the Romish church should be condemned and abolished, "seeing that the sacraments of Jesus Christ are most shamefully abused and profaned by  
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\* Dr. Stuart, p. 186.

† Lesser barons.

“ that Romane *harlot*, and her sworne vassals ;” and that a remedy should be applied against the profanation of the holy sacraments by the Roman Catholics. It insisted, that the supremacy and authority of the pope should be abolished, and that the patrimony of the church should be employed in supporting the reformed ministry. It reprobated the doctrine of transubstantiation, *the merit of works*, indulgences, purgatory, pilgrimages, and prayers to departed saints, which they considered as errors fatal to salvation. It therefore demanded, that all those who should teach and maintain them, should be exposed to *correction and punishment*\*. The spirit of persecution is evident in this supplication, which imperiously maintains a right to prescribe to the consciences of men, and is full of that intolerance which the reformers so strongly reprobated in the church of Rome. But all men are nearly the same in similar situations, and all Christian churches, when supported by the civil authority, have occasionally forgot the mild maxims of their master.

This supplication was received by parliament with every mark of respect ; but the nobility and lay members were not so fond of the proposal to allocate the church revenues to the service of the new ministry. Such a thing indeed could not be expected from such men, for the leaders of the congregation had been contending for something more substantial than abstract doctrines

\* See this “ supplication of the congregation to the parliament” in Dr. Stuart’s History. Appendix, No. xxii.

doctrines of faith; and the patrimony of the church was the tempting prize that constituted the *honest* reward of their activity. They had no objection, however, that the new doctrines should receive the sanction of law, provided they were not coupled with any unreasonable obligation to support the reformed preachers. Avoiding all needless discussion on this point, the parliament gave it in charge to the ministers, and other wise and learned men, to draw up, under distinct heads, the substance of those doctrines which ought to be established over the kingdom. A writing was accordingly prepared, entitled "THE CONFESSION OF FAITH PROFESSED AND BELIEVED BY THE PROTESTANTS WITHIN THE REALM OF SCOTLAND." This instrument was first read to the lords of articles, and then in parliament. The prelates of the Romish church were commanded to make their objections to the doctrines it proposed. But they were silent; for opposition would have been unavailing, and would only have exposed them to ridicule or insult, perhaps, to danger or destruction. The articles of confession were again separately read over and considered; but the popish clergy preserved a profound silence, which drew forth a petulant and hypocritical speech from the earl Marischal. With the affectation of great solemnity, the high court of parliament examined and ratified the confession of the reformed faith (anno 1560).

An act was passed against the mass, and the exercise of the Romish worship, within a few days after the establishment of the confession of faith (24th August). And it ordained, that all persons saying  
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hearing mass, should for the first offence be exposed to the confiscation of their estates, and be liable to corporal punishment at the discretion of the magistrate ; for the second offence, they should be banished out of the kingdom ; for the third, punished with death. This bloody enactment betrayed the intolerant and persecuting spirit of the reformers. They had forgot that the persecution of heretics was the chief article of their complaints against the Romish clergy, as well as the ostensible pretext for their rebellion. But these men were not to be restrained by any regard for decency or morality ; an act of justice was not to be expected from those whose principles and practice had been all their lives at variance with every virtuous sentiment ; and the just execration of posterity has stamped their characters with the indelible mark of infamy.

By another ordination of parliament, the jurisdiction and authority of the pope in Scotland, was declared to be at an end ; and all persons maintaining any connection with him or his see were made liable to the loss of honour and offices, and subjected to the pains of proscription and banishment.

The ratification of these acts by Francis and Mary, was the next object of solicitude with the protestants ; and accordingly an ambassador was dispatched to France to request their approbation. He failed, however, in the object of his mission ; but the reformed were consoled by Elizabeth's condescension ; and in return for her kindness, they proposed the union of the two kingdoms by a marriage with Arrán, which she politely declined.

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The refusal of Francis and Mary to ratify the proceedings in parliament, was the source of inquietude to the leaders of the reformation, who still apprehended danger from the popish party, whose sentiments were sanctioned by the approbation of the sovereign. But the death of Francis relieved their anxiety, and opened a new scene of political intrigue. They knew from experience how to overawe and intimidate the mind of a woman, and could calculate with certainty the effect of threatenings and terror. Their hopes were raised, and they boldly proceeded to settle a form of church government. The three estates having granted a commission to John Winram, John Spotiswood, John Willocks, John Douglas, John Row, and John Knox, to frame a scheme of ecclesiastical polity, they composed "*The First Book of Discipline*," which treated of the uniformity and method to be observed concerning doctrine; the dispensation of sacraments; the election and provision of ministers; and the whole policy of the new church\*. The religious establishment of Geneva was their model; and they differed as widely as possible from the Romish forms and ceremonies. They hoped, and professed, to revive the plainness and sincerity of the primitive ages; but they forgot that they had unhinged all the obligations of morality in the society, by the diffusion of their principles, and the example of their own profligate lives.

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† Dr. Stuart's History of the Reformation, p. 200.

A convocation of the estates sanctioned the presbyterian system of government, but left it naked and unadorned\*. The proposal to bestow on the new establishment the patrimony of the ancient church, was treated with contempt. The leaders of the reformation had seized upon the greater part of the rich possessions of the church; and having obtained what they had so strenuously contended for, they were indifferent to, or little concerned about, the doctrines that were taught, or the maintenance of the clergy. Their professions had constantly been at variance with their principles, which now unfolded themselves, to the infinite mortification of those fanatics who had imagined they had been struggling in the cause of religion.

A new meeting of the estates was assembled (May, 1561), to consider of a proposition from Charles IX., which was sufficiently preposterous. He urged parliament, through his ambassador, Monsieur Noailles, to renew the ancient league between France and Scotland—to dissolve the alliance with England—and to re-establish the popish church and clergy. To this ridiculous request a suitable answer was returned, and parliament proceeded to finish the work of the reformation with calmness and deliberation.

The protestants presented a new supplication, in which they departed from their pretensions to the patrimony of the church, and only solicited that a  
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\* Dr. Cook's History, vol. iii. p. 38.



decent provision should be allotted to the true preachers of the gospel. This moderate and reasonable request met with a fate similar to that of their former high demands; and the preachers of the reformed religion were left to pine in misery and want, which perhaps they deserved, as the just punishment of their crimes\*. Amidst all the embarrassments of the reformed, they still harboured a deadly resentment to every thing that belonged to the Romish church; and their supplication contained a demand that all the monuments of idolatry should be utterly destroyed. The parliament had no objection to gratify them in any request that did not affect the private fortunes of the leading men; and accordingly, an act was passed, which commanded that every abbey, church, cloister, or memorial of popery, should be finally overthrown and demolished.

It is impossible to remark on the conduct of this parliament, and this act, which it passed, with temper or moderation. A man must be destitute of the common feelings of his species, if he does not view with horror and indignation, the atrocious principles of those who proposed and sanctioned such a measure. The execution of this act was entrusted to the earls of Arran, Argyle, and Glencairn, the lord James Stewart, and the barons who had been most forward in promoting

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\* A hundred marks Scots was the annual rate of stipend allowed to the clergy of the reformed church.—*Guthrie*, vol. vi. p. 190.

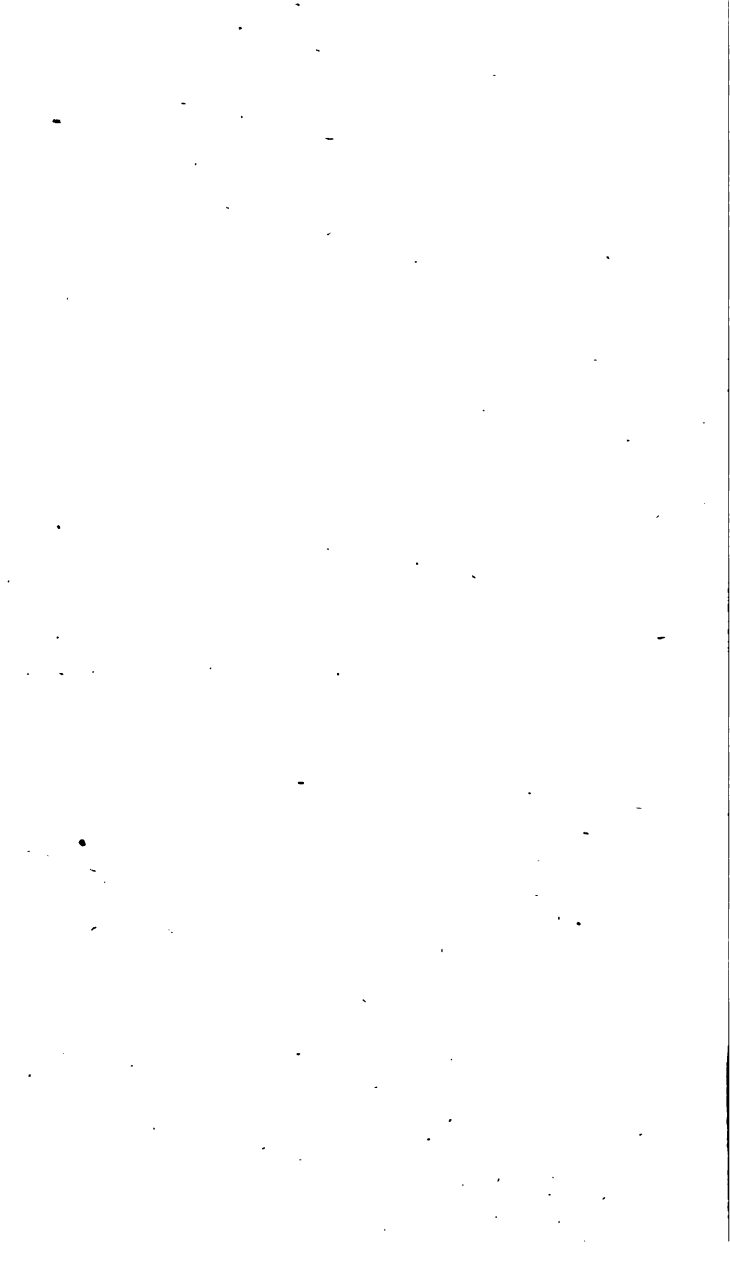
moting the reformation. " A dreadful devastation  
" ensued. The populace, armed with authority,  
" spread their ravages over the kingdom. It was  
" deemed an execrable lenity to spare any fabric or  
" place where idolatry had been exercised. 'The  
" churches and religious houses were everywhere  
" defaced, or pulled to the ground; and their fur-  
" niture, utensils, and decorations, became the prizes  
" and the property of the invader. Even the sepul-  
" chres of the dead were ransacked and violated. The  
" libraries of the ecclesiastics, and the registers kept  
" by them of their own transactions, and of civil af-  
" fairs, were gathered into heaps, and committed to  
" the flames. Religious antipathy—the sanction of  
" law—the exhortation of the clergy—the hope of  
" spoil—and above all, the ardour to put the last  
" hand to the reformation, concurred to drive the rage  
" of the people to its wildest fury; and in the midst  
" of havock and calamity, the new establishment sur-  
" veyed its importance and its power\*." The re-  
formation was now completed. It had originated from  
the base passions of the nobles;—was conducted by  
perfidy, murder, and crimes;—and finished by a spe-  
cies of Vandalism that wreaked its vengeance on the  
noblest monuments of art and genius.

*Although*

\* Dr. Stuart's History of the Reformation, p. 204.

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*Although the Author has referred only to Dr. Cook's and Dr. Stuart's Histories of the Reformation, yet he has consulted many of their authorities, and having found them perfectly correct, he did not deem it necessary to multiply references. He cannot, however, omit mentioning, that Dr. Cook's valuable work is by far the best that has ever been published on the subject of the reformation. His great impartiality and candour are conspicuous throughout his pages, and his language is highly elegant and classical.*



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## CHAPTER XL

### CONTENTS.

[QUEEN MARY'S ARRIVAL IN SCOTLAND—SHE VISITS ABERDEEN AND THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS—BATTLE OF CORRICHRE—DEATH OF HUNTLY—DECAPITATION OF HIS SON—MARY RETURNS TO THE SOUTH—TRANSACTIONS OF HER REIGN—DEATH—JAMES VI.—MURRAY REGENT—HIS ASSASSINATION—BISHOP GORDON, &c.]

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ON the 6th October, 1561, Thomas Menzies was re-elected provost of Aberdeen, and continued in office until 1576. At this time the general state of the country was extremely unquiet. The nobles of the contending factions made every exertion to attach queen Mary to their respective parties. Previously to her departure from France, lord James Stewart had succeeded in gaining her confidence, in opposition to the intrigues of

of the famous John Leslie, official of Aberdeen\*, who was sent thither by the earl of Huntly and other catholic lords†, for the purpose of persuading her to commit herself to their protection, and to adopt their measures as to the government of the kingdom. It was proposed by Leslie, that she should land at Aberdeen, where she would be received by the nobility of the northern provinces, and 20,000 men, to conduct her to Edinburgh‡, with whose assistance she could repress or defeat the machinations of her own, and of their enemies. But this scheme was frustrated by the address of lord James, whose wiser and better policy made a deep impression on her mind, and she accordingly followed his counsel. When he returned to Scotland, the three estates were sitting, and he produced letters from Mary to them, enjoining, that ~~nothing~~ should be attempted against the establishment of the reformed religion.

The amiable and unfortunate Mary arrived at Leith on the 20th of August, 1561, and was carried to the palace of Holyrood House, amidst the acclamations of a loyal and affectionate people. On the 16th September, she appointed a privy-council, which was composed ~~entirely~~ of the partizans of lord James, who

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\* Leslie was afterwards bishop of Ross.

† Their chiefs were the archbishop of St. Andrews; the bishops of Aberdeen, Moray, and Ross; the earls of Huntly, Athol, Crawford, and Sutherland.—*Guthrie's History*, vol. iv. p. 147.

‡ *Hottelot's*, vol. ii. p. 313.

now assumed the almost uncontroled direction of the affairs of the kingdom.

It was the practice of the Scottish monarchs occasionally to make a progress through the realm, for the purpose of distributing justice, or, as it frequently occurred, from considerations of a political nature. Mary, in compliance with that custom, had visited Stirling, St. Andrews, Dundee, &c., where she had been warmly and affectionately received by the people; and she determined to travel through the northern counties, early in the summer of 1562. Like every other action of her life, this journey is ascribed to various motives, which it is not necessary for our purpose to investigate. The inhabitants of Aberdeen, however, resolved to receive her with every expression of loyalty; and a head-court was called on the 12th January, 1562, in order to assess the community in the requisite expence that her visit might occasion. It was therefore at this meeting unanimously agreed and ordained, that the sum of £111:2:2 two-thirds, should be raised for the decoration of the town, and as a *propine* to her majesty, according to established custom.

On the 26th January this year, a head-court was called by the hand-bell, to witness the sale, by public roup, of the silver and brass work, with other ornaments which belonged to the parish church of St. Nicolas, which were accordingly sold; and the whole proceeds of the sale amounted only to £45 sterling: the silver plate having been purchased at one shilling and fourpence sterling per ounce.

On the 19th August, the queen arrived at Aberdeen\*, accompanied by her brother, lord James, now earl of Murray†, and a suitable attendance of followers. At that time a serious misunderstanding, or rather, a strong enmity subsisted between Murray and the earl of Huntly, who was deemed the most powerful and accomplished nobleman of the age. The death of Huntly and of his son, which soon after ensued, together with the ruin of the Gordon family, originated from circumstances which are not distinctly explained by the historians of that period. There can, however, be no doubt, that Huntly viewed the rise of Murray, and his influence in the councils of the queen, with great jealousy; and on the other hand, it is evident, that Murray thought Huntly too powerful for a subject, or, perhaps, dreaded his intrigues in favour of the catholic interest, of which he was the chief supporter. But it is certain, that these great men struggled for each other's destruction, and an incident which occurred at this time, precipitated the Gordon family into a series of misfortunes.

Sir John Gordon of Findlater, the fourth‡ son of the earl of Huntly, had a dispute with lord Ogilvy about an estate, which occasioned a rencounter between

\* Pitscottie.

† He was created earl of Murray, 10th July, 1562.—*Pitscottie*.

‡ Guthrie calls him the *third* son; but according to Gordonstoun's manuscript, he was the *fourth* son, and this authority we deem the most authentic, as to every thing relative to the Gordon family.



tween them on the streets of Edinburgh, and Ogilvy was dangerously wounded. The magistrates immediately imprisoned Sir John, and sent an account of the affair to Mary, who was then at Stirling, and preparing to visit the northern parts of the kingdom. Mary approved of the proceedings of the magistrates, and, at the instigation of Murray, ordered him to be removed to a place of greater security than the jail of Edinburgh; but he made his escape, and came northward to seek refuge among his friends. When the queen arrived at Aberdeen, she was visited by the countess of Huntly, who earnestly implored Sir John's pardon; but Mary thought her dignity insulted by his breach of ward, and insisted upon his surrendering himself prisoner in her court of justiciary of Aberdeen, with which he complied, and was committed to the custody of the magistrates. Under the authority of the queen, it was ordered, that Sir John should be carried to the castle of Stirling, of which lord Erskine, the uncle of Murray, was governor. The Gordons considered this order as tantamount to a sentence of death; and Sir John, a second time made his escape, while on the road to Stirling. A sentence of forfeiture was issued against him, his wife, and all his abettors, by the privy-council, on the 10th of September, while Mary was at Tarnaway, the seat of the ancient earls of Murray, and attended by the earls of Argyle, Marischal, Morton, &c.

The Gordons now appeared in arms, but, it is to be presumed, with no other intention than to protect themselves against the machinations of their enemies; for  
Mary

Mary and her court-travelled to Inverness with only a slender guard, and they could at any time have been seized by the Gordons. But they returned to Aberdeen without molestation, although Huntly was at the head of a powerful force, which sufficiently evinces that he stood merely on the defensive. He no doubt suspected that his destruction was intended by his enemy, Murray, who had prevailed on the queen to deprive Huntly of the earldom of Murray, and confer it on himself; and as matters had been thus carried to an extremity, Huntly took refuge among the mountains of Aberdeenshire, with about three hundred horsemen. Murray marched from Aberdeen with the queen's troops, and Huntly waiting his approach on the hill of Corrichre, a battle ensued on the 28th October, in which Huntly, and about 120 Gordons, were killed. Sir John, his brother Adam, and about 100 more, were taken prisoners, and brought to Aberdeen.

It has been generally said, by those who have related the particulars of this affair, that Huntly was smothered in the crowd; but it is more probable, that he was murdered after he was made prisoner, in consequence of a private order from Murray. His body was brought to Aberdeen, and transported by sea to Edinburgh, where, after lying unburied all winter, it was tried by a mock jury, and condemned. His son, Sir John Gordon, was beheaded on the 30th October, at Aberdeen, and was shockingly mangled by the axe of an unskilful executioner. The fate of this young man excited the pity and compassion of all spectators.

spectators. His figure was graceful—his deportment manly—and Mary wept when she saw him led to the scaffold. Adam Gordon was pardoned on account of his youth ; but five gentlemen of the same name were hanged ; and the remainder of the prisoners were fined according to their rank or circumstances. The eldest of the earl's sons, lord George, was now the heir and representative of the Gordon family ; but he was also implicated in his father's misfortunes, although he was not present at Corrichie, and took no active part in the rebellion. Murray's malignancy, however, still pursued the family of Huntly ; and lord George was tried and condemned for high treason ; but was afterwards pardoned, and restored to his estates and honours by the queen, anno 1564, according to Piscottie\*.

The peace of the north being established by the ascendancy of Murray's good fortune, the queen quitted Aberdeen on the 4th November, and went to Dunottar ; thence to Bonington, Arbroath, Dundee, Perth, &c. The remainder of her life was chequered by a diversity of incidents. She enjoyed some moments of happiness in the endearments of love ; but these were greatly overbalanced by the weight of her calamities—and her end was tragical. Almost every thing relative to this unfortunate woman has been variously recorded by the different authors who have either praised or abused her ; and amidst their contradictory reports, it is difficult to ascertain

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\* The forfeiture being reversed by the parliament, which assembled on the 14th April, 1567.

tain the truth, or to determine with justness whether she ought to be commended or censured. We shall therefore only notice a few of the most important events of her life.

She was married to lord Darnly on the 29th July, 1565, at Holyrood-house; and on the 19th June the following year, she was delivered of a son who was baptized at Stirling on the 15th December, under the name of Charles James. On the 10th February, 1567, Darnly was murdered. He had gone to Glasgow, where he was seized with a dangerous distemper, from which he partly recovered. But while in a feeble state, the queen removed him to the suburbs of Edinburgh, where he arrived on the 30th January, and remained till the morning of the 10th February, when the house was blown up with gunpowder, and the king's body was found lying naked on the ground at some distance. The earl of Bothwell was generally suspected to be the principal actor in this tragedy, and was accordingly tried for the alledged crime, on the 12th April, but was acquitted by the jury, before whom the accuser, the earl of Lennox, did not adduce any proof against him, either written or verbal\*. Notwithstanding Bothwell's acquittal, there was no doubt of his guilt; but others were implicated in the crime, and it was requisite for their own safety, that they should not only protect him from personal injury, but also promote his ambitious views by a marriage with the queen. A bond to that effect was subscribed on the 20th April, by the archbishop of St. Andrews; the

\*-Guthrie, vol. vii. p. 15.

the bishops of Aberdeen, Galloway, Dumblain, Brechin, Ross, the isles, and Orkney ; the earls of Huntly, Argyle, Morton, Cassilis, Sutherland, Errol, Crawford, Caithness, and Rothes ; the lords Boyd, Glamis, Ruthven, Sempil, Herris, Ogilvy, and Fleming. These were the despicable supporters of the infamous Bothwell ; and in less than two days after he had obtained the bond, he seized Mary at Almond Bridge, and carried her to Dunbar. After being a prisoner there for ten days, he removed her to the castle of Edinburgh ; and the complying queen, consenting to her union with this wretch, was married to him on the 15th May, 1567. This unnatural marriage excited universal disgust, and the whole kingdom was in the greatest ferment.

A powerful association of lords and gentlemen resolved to rise in arms and pursue Bothwell to destruction, in punishment of his crimes. They assembled a tumultuary army at Stirling, and marched to Edinburgh. Mary and Bothwell collected about 4000 men, and both armies met near Musselburgh. Bothwell, with the lords Seton, Yester, and Borthwick, led the royal troops ; Morton, Hume, Athol, Marre, &c. commanded the confederates. The royal army was dispirited, and also less numerous than that of the associated lords. Mary was constrained to capitulate, and renounce Bothwell, who retired from the field with a few followers, without molestation. The queen was carried a prisoner to Holyrood-house, and thence, for greater security, to Lochleven Castle. Morton and his associates formed themselves into a *secret council*

for the government of the kingdom. The first measure they adopted, was to compel Mary to resign her throne in favour of her infant son, and to appoint Murray regent of the kingdom during the king's minority. These concessions were extorted by threats of death or perpetual imprisonment; and lord Lindsay presented the signed instruments to the council, on the 25th July, who gladly received them, and entered into a fresh association for carrying them into execution.

The young prince was accordingly crowned at Stirling, on the 29th July, 1567, and the unfortunate Mary was thus deprived of her throne by the illegal act of a desperate and unprincipled faction. Such measures could not be viewed with indifference by her loyal and faithful subjects; and a counter association, called the Queen's Lords, was entered into by the heads of the Hamilton family, the lords Fleming, Boyd, &c. In the meantime, Mary escaped from Lochleven Castle, through the partiality of a young admirer\*. The lords in her interest, were assembled at Hamilton, where she was received by the earls of Argyle, Cassilis, Rothes, Eglinton; the lords Somervil, Yester, Levingston, Borthwick, Heris, Ross, Fleming, and many other barons and freeholders, who, with their attendants, formed an army of 6000 men. Murray, who had assumed the regency, was then in Glasgow, a distance of only eight miles, and notwithstanding

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\* George Douglas, who is represented to have been no more than 18 years of age.

ing that his friends were in terror and dismay, he suddenly rejected every proposal of accommodation. On the hill of Langside, the armies came in contact, and Murray's genius prevailed\*.

Mary fled to England to claim the protection of her cousin Elizabeth. But her expectations of friendship were disappointed. She was treated as a prisoner, and finally suffered on the scaffold at Fotheringay, Northamptonshire, on the 8th February, 1587. Such was the fatal end of the most beautiful and accomplished woman of the age.

Murray now ruled the country with absolute sway, and persecuted his enemies with great fury. The earl of Huntly was one of the queen's firmest friends, and, consequently, extremely obnoxious to him. In 1569 he marched northwards, and held justice courts at Aberdeen, Elgin, and Inverness. Huntly had submitted on terms, but his adherents and vassals were severely punished by the exaction of exorbitant sums as the compromise of their rebellion. The northern parts being quieted, Murray returned south, and everywhere overawed or intimidated those who dared to oppose his measures. But the hand of the assassin closed his guilty career, on the 23d January, 1570: While passing through the streets of Linlithgow, on his way to Edinburgh, he was killed by a musket-shot fired from a window by Hamilton of Bothwell-haugh. The character of Murray is sufficiently illustrated by his

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actions.

\* Guthrie, vol. vii.

actions. " His ingratitude to Mary—his barbarous " unmanly treatment of her—and the infamous acts " by which he wrought her destruction, can admit of " no apology\* ;" and his whole life unequivocally evinces the depravity of his heart, his cruelty, and boundless ambition.

William Gordon, of the house of Huntly, was the last Romish bishop who filled the see of Aberdeen. He received his education in France ; and on his return home, was made rector of *Clatt*, and afterwards bishop of Aberdeen. He was consecrated in 1547, but having taken up his residence for some time in France, he found it necessary to constitute a vicar-general in his bishoprick during his absence ; and in 1552, he gave a commission for that purpose to Robert, bishop of Orkney, and James Gordon, chancellor of the see of Moray. A copy of this delegation has been preserved, and may be seen in Keith's Catalogue, p. 73.

Bishop Gordon was a man of considerable abilities, but lived in a style that was thought to be unbecoming his sacred office ; or, in other words, like the greater part of the dignitaries of the church, he took a young lady under his *protection*, which called forth the severe reprehension of the dean and chapter of the diocese. They presented a paper to him, entitled, " The coun-  
" sall given be the deyne and chapter of Aberdeen, to  
" my lord bischope of Aberdeen, for reformation to  
" be

\* Guthrie, vol. vii. p. 270.



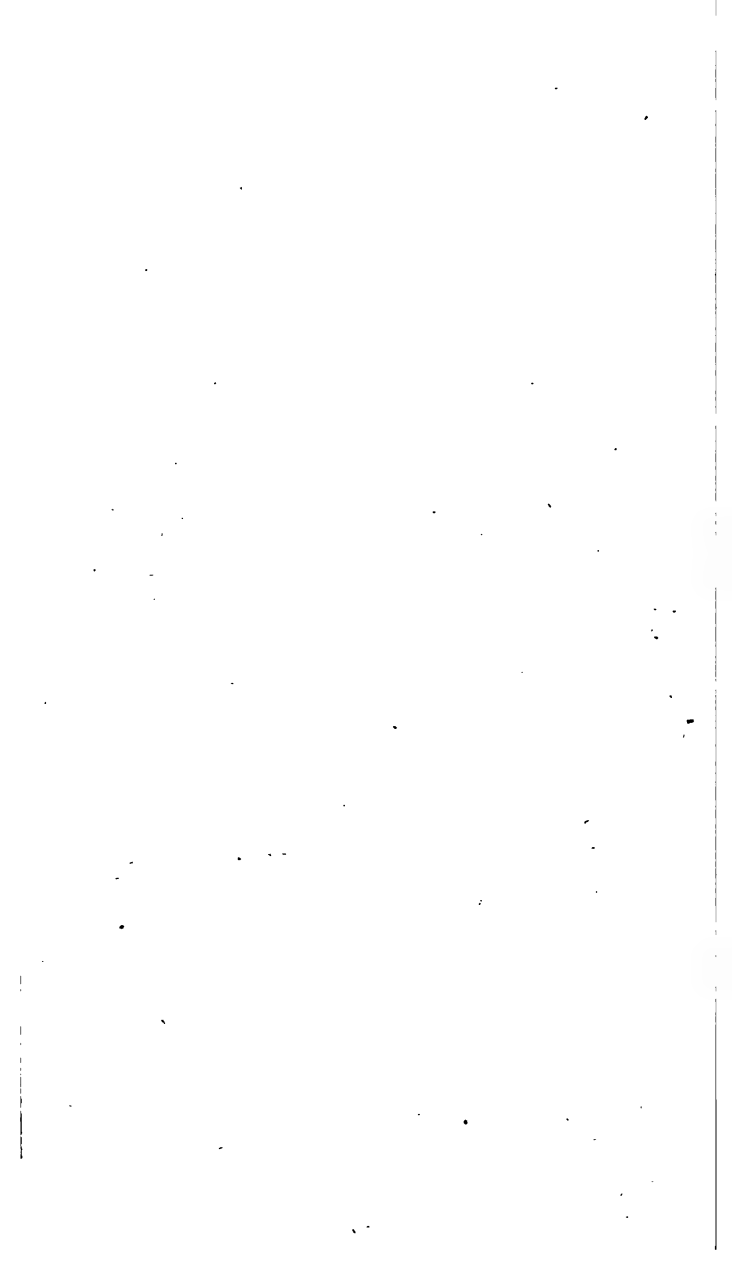
" be maid, and stanching of heresies" within the diocese. This curious document is reprinted in the appendix of Dr. Cook's excellent history (No. 3), and it begins, " Imprimis, that my lord of Aberdeen  
 " causse the kirkmen within his lordschippe's diocie,  
 " to reform themselves in all their sclanderus maner of  
 " lyving, and to remove their *oppen concubines, as weil*  
 " *grete as smale*, under sic pains as is conteint in the  
 " law and acts provinciall; and the chapter of Aber-  
 " deen sall do siclyk amang them in all scharpest  
 " maner, conform to the law, als weil on thairselves  
 " as their servandes." This paper plainly requests, that his lordship " wald be as gude as to schew  
 " gude and edificative example in special, in remov-  
 " ing and discharging himself of company of the  
 " *gentill woman* be quhom his is gretlie sclanderit;  
 " without the quhilk be done, divers that are perfinax  
 " says, thai can nocht accept counsall and correctioun  
 " of him quhilk will not correct himself."

Dr. Cook remarks on this document with considerable asperity, and says, " it admits the open profligacy of the clergy," and plainly shews that the bishop was " most dissolute in his morals," which he contrasts with the refined virtue of the early preachers of the reformed doctrines. There may have been many reasons why the advocates of the " new tenets" did not entirely adopt the manners of their predecessors, and, being differently situated, the rules of comparison cannot be fairly applied. The Roman Catholic clergy were the depositaries of learning, and all that was known in science. They were affluent, at least

least the higher orders of them, and mingled with the most polished classes of society. The reformed preachers, on the other hand, during the progress of the reformation, and for long after, with few exceptions, were extremely ignorant, and miserably poor. Their pretensions to the wealth of the church were rejected by the barons, who haughtily retorted upon them their unguarded and insincere professions of moderation and abstinence. Their hopes of opulence being thus frustrated by the avarice of the barons, who left them scarcely so much of the spoil as necessary to support their existence, they were denied all means of indulgence. But the introduction of the ceremony of marriage among the reformed clergy, almost entirely removed the inducement to unlawful association, and their gloomy austerity either moderated their passions, or rendered them less sensible of the seducing influence of female beauty.

It is no wonder then that the preachers of the reformed doctrines were less conspicuous for their vices than the clergy of the old school, who were certainly their superiors in every thing that related to learning, taste, and refinement. But it is scarcely fair to attach criminality to a whole body of men, because the conduct of some of their number might have been exceptionable; and it is extremely ridiculous to suppose that a Roman Catholic priest is a worse man than an episcopalian or a presbyterian minister. Notwithstanding the differences which have subsisted among Christian sects, yet there is nothing in the principles of any religious system that inculcates vice and villainy. The  
misconduct

misconduct of men originates from something else than their religious opinions; for we shall find good and bad members of society among every denomination of Christians. It would therefore be unjust to ascribe to the Romish doctrines the vices of individuals, or to allow for a moment the gaiety, or perhaps dissipation, of bishop Gordon to detract from the virtues of bishop Elphinston. But in reviewing the lives of those eminent men who filled the see of Aberdeen previous to the era of the reformation, we shall find, almost without exception, that they were shining examples of every thing that is great and valuable. They were occasionally employed in the most important offices in the state, and were illustrious, not only for their talents, but also for their piety and benevolence. When we contrast these men with their successors, after the period of the reformation, we discover a lamentable disparity of intellect; for among the *nine* reformed bishops of the see of Aberdeen, there was not one who could pretend to any thing above mediocrity as to natural talents or literary acquirements.



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## CHAPTER XII.

### CONTENTS.

[PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO ABERDEEN—FEUDS BETWEEN THE GORDONS AND FORBESSES—BATTLE OF THE CRAB-STONE—DISPUTE BETWEEN THE BURGESSES OF ABERDEEN AND THE MAGISTRATES, RELATIVE TO ELECTIONS, &c.

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ON the 8th May, 1563, a head-court was assembled, and it was ordered, that the money arising from the sale of the silver work and ornaments of St. Nicolas' church, should be applied towards repairing the quay-head, the bridge of Don, and to purchase artillery and ammunition. This year, Thomas Menzies of Pitfodells, was provost, and, being annually chosen, was continued in office until 1576, when his eldest son was elected, who continued till Michaelmas, 1588.

On the 14th February, 1567-8, an order was issued by the privy-council for taking off the lead from the cathedral churches of Aberdeen and Elgin, to be sold  
for

for the support of the regent's army. The earl of Huntly, as sheriff of Aberdeenshire, and Dunbar of Cummock, sheriff of Elgin, with the magistrates of the respective boroughs, and the bishops Gordon and Hepburn, were ordered to assist, and to support Alexander Clark and William Birnie, the council's servants, in the execution of this barbarous act\*. Tradition has handed down a story, which says, that William Birnie having shipped a cargo of the lead for Holland, was lost with ship and cargo off the Girdleness; and the pious ascribe this accident to the interference of providence as a just punishment on the perpetrators of this sacrilegious deed.

Within a few months after the death of Murray, the earl of Lennox was appointed to the regency (12th July, 1570)†. The friends of Mary were still in arms, and the country was torn by the contending factions. A party of the regent's force surprised the castle of Dumbarton, and the primate of St. Andrews, who had taken refuge in it, was cruelly put to death (1st April, 1571). As Lennox was a tool to the dark and designing Morton, it is generally supposed that he was the secret cause of the execution of the archbishop; but it is certain, that he obtained the revenues of the see of St. Andrews‡. It is needless, however, to remark on the conduct of the barons of this age, for in every thing they did, their own interest was the directing

\* Skinner's Ecclesiastical History, vol. ii. p. 194.

† Guthrie, vol. vii. p. 190.

‡ Skinner's Eccl. Hist. vol. ii. p. 202.

directing principle. On the 4th September, Lennox was killed on the street of Stirling, in a scuffle with a party of the queen's friends, commanded by lord Claud Hamilton, the archbishop's nephew, who thus revenged the death of his uncle. The earl of Mar was immediately appointed regent, (5th September, 1571\*.)

The Gordon family firmly adhered to the queen's interest; and Adam Gordon, as the lieutenant of his brother, the earl of Huntly, acted with great vigour in the northern parts of the kingdom. The regent-earl, in order to create a diversion, encouraged the Forbesses, who were the rival clan of the Gordons, and numerous in Aberdeenshire, to commence hostilities in that quarter. The Forbesses held a great part of their lands of the earl of Huntly, but they did not behave well at the battle of Corrichie, and ever since that time they had acted in opposition to his interest.

The Forbesses armed and assembled at *Druminnor*, about ten miles distant from Strathbogie. Sir Adam Gordon, who inherited the gallant spirit of his family, attacked them in their entrenchments at Tulliangus, near Castle Forbes. Arthur, commonly called *Black Arthur*, brother to lord Forbes, commanded, and was killed, with about a hundred of his followers. They were, however, still able to keep the field, and having applied to the regent for assistance, he sent them a reinforcement of two hundred disciplined troops, under the command of captains Chisholm and Wedderburn; and

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\* John Knox died this year, on the 27th of November, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

and the Gordons were also joined by a party under Sir James Kircaldy. The Forbesses having collected their followers, and being encouraged by the reinforcement they had lately received, marched to Aberdeen to dislodge Sir Adam Gordon, who lay there with his forces. Upon their approach, he drew his troops out of the town, and ordered the citizens not to interfere in the quarrel. Sir Adam placed captain Thomas Carr, with a hundred musketeers in ambush, in a hollow which the enemy had to pass, with orders to lie close until the engagement commenced, and then to attack the Forbesses in the rear. He also sent a party of the Sutherland men to flank them, and having marched out with the main body under the immediate command of himself and his brother, he waited their approach at a place called the *Crabstone*. The Forbesses were commanded by John, *Master of Forbes*, and they boldly advanced without perceiving the party in ambush. Their infantry fired briskly upon Sir Adam's horse, and had spent the greater part of their shot, when the Gordons from their concealment burst upon them in the rear, broke their ranks, and put them to rout with much slaughter. In the meantime, the horse on both sides joined battle, and fought with great keenness and obstinacy. Sir Adam was knocked off his horse by a stone projected by the vigorous arm of a Forbes; but his fall served only to increase the fury of his troops, who entirely routed and dispersed their opponents. Fifteen gentlemen, with captain Chisholm, and three hundred Forbesses were killed; the *Master*, and two hundred, were taken prisoners, and were carried to Strathbogie,



Although the civil war continued to rage with unabated fury in the southern districts of Scotland, yet the regent was able to send an army under the earl of Crawford, for the purpose of checking Sir Adam Gordon in the north, who had become formidable in consequence of his victories over the Forbesses. He had marched into the Mearns, and was besieging the house of Glenbervie, when he heard that Crawford had taken up his head-quarters in Brechin. Sir Adam surprised the enemy on the 5th July, 1572, killed forty-nine of them, and took a hundred and ninety prisoners. This affair, in the cant language of the times, was called the *jest of Brechin*. Sir Adam marched to Montrose, laid the affrighted inhabitants under contribution, and then returned to the siege of Glenbervie, which soon after surrendered. He advanced into Angus, which he brought under Mary's authority; so that from the Tay to the northern extremity of Scotland, none of the queen's enemies durst appear†.

The earl. of Mar died at Stirling, 28th October,  
 1572.

\* This *Crabstone* is still to be seen, and forms part of the wall of a house in the Hardgate of Aberdeen.

† Gordon's History of the family of Gordon, vol. ii. p. 368, *et seq.*

‡ Ibid, vol. i. p. 376..

1572, and Morton succeeded him in the regency. Both parties were tired with the miseries of war, and an accommodation was proposed. Commissioners on both sides accordingly met at Perth, and on the 23d February, 1573, a treaty of peace was concluded, in which it was stipulated, that those who had adhered to the interest of Mary should acknowledge the religion as by law established, and submit to the king, to Morton, and to his successors in the regency. This treaty embraced the spirit of forgiveness, and reversed all acts of forfeiture.

In the year 1575 an alteration was proposed in the form of church government. Episcopacy was unrepealed, and the regent favoured it; but a puritanical spirit generally prevailed in Scotland; and Drury, a minister of Edinburgh, started a question in the Assembly concerning episcopacy and the duties of bishops, in which he was warmly supported by Andrew Melvil, who had lately returned from Geneva, and had imbibed the notions of Calvin and Beza\*. After various attempts by the same party to obtain the same object, it was at last settled by a solemn act of the assembly (met at Dundee), July 12th, 1580, that “forasmuch as the office of a bishop, as it is now used within this realm, hath no sure warrant, authority, nor good ground out of the word of God, but is brought in by the folly and corruption of mens’ invention, to the great overthrow of the true Kirk of God: Therefore, the whole assembly, in one voice, findeth

\* Guthrie, vol. viii. p. 20.

" findeth and declareth the same pretended office unlawful in itself; and ordaineth, that all persons who brook, or hereafter shall brook the said office, be charged forthwith to demitt, quit, and leave off the same, and sicklike—to desist and cease from preaching, ministring the sacraments, or any way using the office of pastors, till they receive admission anew from the General Assembly, under pain of excommunication, &c.\*"

The *Presbyterian* discipline was thus authorized by an act of the assembly; and, on the 30th May, 1581, the presbytery of Edinburgh was established. It was followed by others, and the king's consent was obtained in 1586, and also the ratification of parliament in 1592†. Melvil was the chief agent in the establishment of the presbyterian system; and in church affairs, he was an able successor to John Knox. It is said, that he proposed to the magistrates of Glasgow to demolish the fine cathedral of that city, which would have been accordingly destroyed, if the tradesmen in the town, had not threatened to put to death the first man who should cast down a stone of it; and finally, the interference of the king protected that noble edifice‡.

The earl of Huntly and other catholic lords, who were dissatisfied with public measures, were accused of a conspiracy to overthrow the government, and to re-establish the Romish worship; but their object,

r 3.

whatever

\* Skinner's Ecclesiastical History, vol. ii. p. 210.

† Ibid. p. 212.

‡ Ibid. p. 213.

whatever it might have been, was defeated. Huntly, Crawford, and Errol, however, assembled forces at Aberdeen, and issued a proclamation, declaring, that the king was held captive by the chancellor, and requiring the lieges to assist them in setting his person at liberty. But the king collected an army, and marched to Aberdeen to suppress the rebellion. It appears that Huntly did not wish to endanger his majesty's person by a battle, and his followers were disbanded\*. James entered Aberdeen on the 20th April, 1589, and Huntly retired to Strathbogie. The king advanced as far as Ross-shire, and upon his return to Aberdeen, many of the northern barons gave bonds for their good behaviour. Huntly had surrendered himself, and after an easy confinement at Edinburgh, was tried and condemned, but he was afterwards pardoned, as well as his associates, Crawford, Bothwell, and Errol. James again marched to Aberdeen, with a small army, where he arrived on the 22d February, 1592, in pursuit of the catholic lords, who were implicated in a pretended plot, in league with the king of Spain. He held a justice court, and many gave security for their peaceable conduct. The earls Marischal and Athol were appointed lieutenants of the northern districts, and James returned to Edinburgh about the middle of March†.

During twelve years, Gilbert Menzies had been provost of Aberdeen, but at Michaelmas 1589, Thomas Menzies was chosen; and next year, Alexander Cullen.

From

\* History of the family of Gordon, vol. ii. p. 48.

† Ibid. p. 68.

From the frequent recurrence of the same names, as provosts of Aberdeen, it will be perceived, that the offices of the magistracy, and the management of the town's affairs, had been confined to a junto, who re-elected themselves, and that the community at large, for many years, had not had any voice in the elections. Previously to this time, various statutes had been enacted for regulating the election of the magistrates and councils in boroughs; particularly the 30th of James III. which enacted, that "officiars" shall not be continued longer than one year, and that each of the crafts shall have a vote in the election of the magistrates; the 108th of same reign—that the election be without partiality or "mastership;" the 80th of James IV.—"that all officers in burghs be changed yearly, "and that they be persons using merchandise within "the burgh." The enactments of James V. c. 26. and of James VI. c. 8. were to the same effect. The act of James IV. c. 36. ordained, "that the common "guid of all burrows be spent for their common profit, by the advice of the town-council and deacons "of crafts where they are, and that the rents of burrows be not set, but for three years allanarly, under pain of nullity." The act of James V. c. 26. ordered, "that magistrates of burghs bring yearly to "the exchequer, their compt books of their common "guid, under pain of tinsel of their freedom, and that "fifteen days before, they warn all that pleases to "come, and object against their accounts\*."

Notwithstanding these various statutes, it is evident, that

\* Abridgment of the Acts of Parliament.

that the magistrates of Aberdeen re-elected themselves, year after year, and disposed of the public property as they pleased. That the burgesses had deemed their conduct a grievance, there can be little doubt; but in the year 1589 they pursued measures for obtaining redress, and raised actions before the competent courts, against the then magistrates. The nature of these processes may be learned from the town's records; and it shall be our duty to give a concise narration of the material facts regarding them, as the cause in which the Burgesses engaged, was worthy of a more enlightened period, and shows, that the principles of civil liberty were then understood, and that the inhabitants of Aberdeen had the spirit to challenge the improper conduct of their rulers.

It appears by an act of council bearing date the 8th February, 1590, that three several summonses were served upon the magistrates and council, at the instance of *Alexander Ewyn, Robert Lowrenstoun, John Laying, Robert Stewart, Alexander Ronaldson, Lawrence Mercer, and David Castell*, burgesses, for themselves and the other members of the community.

1st, To compear before the Lords on the 20th of February, and to bring along with them the borough-register, council-books, and all written documents relative to the revenue, lands, rents, and offices; the erection of the borough, and in fact, every recorded deed concerning it, since the year 1560.

2d, To compear before the Lords on the same day, to hear and see themselves "decernit to be removed  
" off the counsall of the burgh, as not lawfullie chosen  
" thereto,

" thereto, &c. ; and that the magistrates be zierly  
 " changit according to the actis of parliament and  
 " lawes of the realm ;" and,

3d, To compear before " the Lords of his majestie's  
 " exchequer the same day, to heir and see the said  
 " Lords of cheker decreet letters in all the four formes  
 " at the instance of the saids complainers, charging  
 " the provost and bailies now present to sett, roup,  
 " and put to the utter zierlie avail, the common lands,  
 " common rentis, profeits, and dewties of the common  
 " guid of the hurgh\*."

The magistrates and council ordained that Mr. Thomas Menzies should go to Edinburgh to defend them in these actions, and ordered the treasurer to give L.40 Scots (L.3 : 6 : 8 sterling), to defray his expences, and also to disburse L.30 Scots, to " gratifie" the lawyers and their servants.

By an act of council 5th May, 1591, it appears, that the magistrates were again summoned before the lords on the 16th of that month, to answer similar charges,

\* The charges brought against the magistrates were of a serious nature. They were accused of forming themselves into a society for many years past, with the view to procure " lordship" within the borough ; of continuing in office without any lawful election or change from year to year, except it were to place the son in the situation of the father, when he happened to die ; of having dilapidated and conveyed away the common property, rents, and casualties belonging to the public, and making " setts and dispositions thair of to themselves and thair awin freyndis, and be their monopolie hes brought the burgh to sic gryt povertie, that without question, or it be lang, the same sall all utterlie decay, without remeid be provydit."

charges, brought against them by the same people; and the sum of L.8 : 6 : 8 sterling, is ordered to be advanced to Mr. Menzies, to indemnify him for the expence of his attendance at Edinburgh, and to pay the law agents.

James VI. determined this dispute as far as regarded the election of the magistrates, by a writ issued under the privy seal, of date the 20th July, 1591. The election challenged, was declared to be valid; and this writ is altogether a curious document. His majesty acknowledges the great obligations he is under to the magistrates and council of Aberdeen, by exposing their lives and properties in his service, and in repressing rebellions in the northern parts of the kingdom; and ascribes the growing prosperity of the town to their continuance in office for *the space of forty or fifty years*, "according to the loveable consuetude" of the borough. "In consideration quhairof, and that *our act of parliament* maid anent the changing of the *zierlie counsall has never zit tane effect* within our *said burgh*," his majesty declares, that the council shall stand after the ancient custom, and if any of them shall die, the remaining members shall elect others in their place, notwithstanding the "act of parliament" maid anent ~~the~~ *zierly* change and election of magistrates within the burgh; anent the quhilk" he dispenses with that part which relates to the changing of the council, and discharges all actions competent to him or to his successors, regarding the contravention of the act.

The determination of the king did not give general satisfaction;



satisfaction; and it is scarcely to be expected that it should have done so, for he decided the case in opposition to justice, and to the law of the country. The magistrates, however, to remove all cause of quarrel, and to quiet the minds of the people, enacted in council, the 29th December, 1591, that an application should be made to the court of session, concerning the *sett* of the borough.

At Michaelmas this year, the election had been conducted according to the act of parliament, as the record expresses, but it acknowledges, that "with the quhilke forme a gryt pairt of the commonalitie cannot as zit be content, craving another forme of the electing of the counsall, nor has bene observit within this burgh of auld and ancient tyme." It was therefore deemed expedient to make a supplication to the lords of session in name of the old and new council, craving their decision, decret, and declarator, upon the form of election observed this year, and if they should find it to correspond with the statute, that they should decern it to be followed in all time to come. But if otherwise, that they should establish a form to be observed in future, "that not onlie the chiefest heid of this present controversie suld be removit thairby, but langsome and irksome processes of law, and sumptuous charges and unnecessary expences might be evitit."

On the 21st January, 1561-2, the lords of council gave a decision on the depending actions at the instance of the burgesses, and *assolizied* the defenders *simpliciter*, as far as regarded the acts of election for any one year preceding

preceding Michaelmas 1591. But as to the election at Michaelmas that year, the magistrates were allowed to prove its legality on the 15th May next, by such witnesses, and such writs or documents, as they should think proper to produce, reserving to the pursuers their objections to the same. The lords also decerned, "That  
 " in tyme hereafter, the saids haill officiares, magistrates, provost, bailies, and counsell of the said burgh, sall be zeirly elected and chosen according  
 " to the acts of parliament made anent election of  
 " magistrates within burgh in all points, and ordains  
 " letters to be direct to the effect foresaid, gif ned bees,  
 " in forme as effiers."

Relative to the election at Michaelmas 1591, the lords pronounced a decision on the 20th May, 1592, finding that election valid, and subjecting the pursuers in the payment of "the soume of twentie pounds as  
 " fair cost, skaith, and expences, maid and susteint by  
 " the saids persons, defenders, in defence of the saids  
 " actions, and obtaining of this present decreet-absolutor : Togedder with the soume of five pounds consignit and payit be theme to the saids lords, and their  
 " collector, according to the ordinance maid thereanent  
 " in forme as effiers."

Notwithstanding these decisions of the lords of session, the burgesses of Aberdeen were still dissatisfied, and their indignation against the magistrates burst forth in open tumult. An insurrection being apprehended, the provost, bailies, and council, issued a proclamation on the 26th September, 1592, commanding the citizens not to assemble on that day, nor on any  
 after-day,

after-day, either with or without arms, under pain of rebellion. The inhabitants, however, disregarded the proclamation, and met in arms at the Grey friars church, and in different parts of the town, on the day of election (27th September); but it does not appear that any acts of outrage were committed, and the magistrates and council shewed every desire to conciliate their favour, by sending several of their number to persuade the people to remain quiet, and to obey the constituted authorities. New actions, however, were raised before the lords, by the burgesses, against the magistrates and council, who prepared to defend themselves by voting L.100 Scots, to defray the expence of three different processes.

But these disputes were finally settled by arbitration, having been referred to " His Majesty, Alexander lord Urquhart, Alexander Commendator of Culros, Mr. James Elphinstone of Invernochty, Mr. John Lindsay of Menmure, four of the senators of the college of justice, Maistres Robert Bruce, David Lindsay, David Cunningham, James Balfour, ministers of Chrystis' evangell, John Arnot, late provost of Edinburgh, John Johnston, burgess thair of, Nicolas Edward, present provost thair of, and Henry Nisbett, burgess of the said burgh of Edinburgh," as arbitrators mutually chosen by the parties. At Edinburgh and " Halieruid-house" a decret-arbitral was pronounced on the 7th December, 1592, by which it appears that the burgesses had so far attained their object, that several of their leading men were appointed to the magistracy and council. This decret, also declared,

declared, " that in all tyme cuming, the acts of parliament anent the election of magistrates, counsall, and " officemen within burgh be precisely observit ;" and all actions at the instance of the burgesses relative to elections were discharged.

The elections of the magistrates and council were made at Michaelmas 1593 and 1594, in terms of the above decret and act of parliament ordained to be observed ; and in each of these two elections six deacons of crafts, being one for each craft, are mentioned as voters. On the 24th September, 1595, the old council, consisting of seventeen burgesses of guild, and two craftsmen, met and elected thirteen burgesses of guild, and two craftsmen, to constitute the new council for the succeeding year, along with four members of the old council. At this election, several of the craftsmen appeared, and claimed that one of each craft should have the power of voting for the provost, bailies, and " remanent officemen of the said burgh, " by and attour the saids four craftsmen, on the auld " and new counsall," protesting, that, if denied this right, the election should be void. It was answered, " that the four craftsmen, upon the auld and new " counsalls, oucht and suld be complit four voitis for " the craftis in the said election of the provost, bailies, and uther officemen, and that by their saidis " four voitis the free craftis of the said burgh allennie that has not ane persone of their said craft on " the said auld and new counsall oucht only to have " voit in the election of the officemen."

To avoid litigation, it was agreed by the magistrates  
and

and council on the one part, and the craftsmen on the other, that this question should be referred to the amicable decision of the commissioners for the boroughs. Accordingly, the general convention held at Aberdeen, gave their decret-arbitral on the 5th July, 1596, to the following effect: That in all time coming, there shall be two craftsmen of the old council, and two of the new, with the six deacons of the crafts, entitled to vote at the annual election for the provost, bailies, dean of guild, and treasurer. And if any of these ten persons shall happen to be absent on the day of election, the other members of the crafts being present, are allowed to chuse others to vote in the place of those who are absent. The same privilege of supplying the votes of absent members, is also granted to the provost, bailies, dean of guild, treasurer, and council; so that altogether, the election is completed by thirty votes, or seventeen of the new, and thirteen of the old council, exclusive of the provost's casting vote.

All differences regarding the *sett* of the borough were now at an end; and the form of election prescribed by this decret-arbitral, has been observed with little variation down to this day. The whole body of magistrates and council, therefore, consists of a provost, four bailies, dean of guild, treasurer, and twelve members of council, having a right to manage the town's public affairs, and to vote for a representative in parliament.



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## CHAPTER XIII.

### CONTENTS.

[PROVOSTS OF ABERDEEN—NATIONAL AND CHURCH AFFAIRS—DEATH OF KING JAMES VI. AND SUCCESSION OF CHARLES I.—BISHOPS OF ABERDEEN.]

\* \* \* \*

**F**OR the year 1591, Alexander Rutherford was provost: Thomas Menzies, yost. for next year; and John Cheyne, for 1593. This year, the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen, was founded and endowed by George, earl Marischal of Scotland, by charter dated 2d April; and the reader is referred to the Appendix, No. II. for a particular account of that seminary, which was drawn up for Sir John Sinclair's Statistical work by one of the gentlemen of the faculty.

The following gentlemen filled the office of first magistrate of Aberdeen, for the years respectively prefixed to their names, viz.

1594 John Collison.	1600 Alex. Rutherford.
1595 Thos. Menzies.	1601 Alex. Cullen.
1596 Alex. Rutherford*.	1602 Thos. Menzies.
1597 Alex. Chalmers.	1603 Alex. Rutherford.
1598 Alex. Rutherford.	1604 Da. Menzies, sen.
1599 Alex. Cullen.	1605 Alex. Rutherford.

On the 24th March, 1603, queen Elizabeth died in the seventieth year of her age, and forty-fifth of her reign; and on the same day, James VI. of Scotland was proclaimed king, at the palace of Whitehall, and at

\* During this and the following year, no fewer than twenty-three persons lost their lives for the crime of *witchcraft*; of whom one died in prison, another hanged herself, and twenty-one suffered at the stake. An account of the expence of their execution is recorded; and as a specimen of the price and quantity of the materials used for burning witches, the following is presented, viz.

*Christen Mitchell, Bessie Thom, and Isabel Barrow.*

9th March, 1596. Item, For a boll and a half of coals to burn the said witches, 30 shillings. Item, For thirty-five loads of peats, L.4 10s. Item, For six barrels of tar, L.10 1s. Item, For two iron barrels, eight shillings. Item, For a stake, dressing and setting up, 13s. 6d. Item, For eight fathoms of rope, eight shillings. Item, For the carrying of the coals, peats and barrels, eight shillings. Item, To John Justice (the hangman), for his fee, 20 shillings.

These poor people were accused of being the D—l's agents; and it is astonishing that the *reformed* clergy could have believed that his *sable majesty*, to whom they ascribed so much *cunning*, should have employed only ignorant, old, and decrepit women, as his instruments in carrying on his war against mankind.



at the cross in Cheapside, amidst the acclamations of the people. In the following year, the union of the two kingdoms was proposed; but various causes combined to defeat that measure, which terminated in the suppression of hostilities, and the acknowledgment, by both countries, of submission to one monarch\*.

The Stewart family were remarkable for their religious prejudices; and James detested the presbyterian form of church government. He was extremely desirous to establish episcopacy in Scotland, and thus introduce ecclesiastical conformity throughout the kingdom†. He prohibited a meeting of the assembly which was called at Aberdeen on the last Tuesday of July 1604. But delegates from several of the presbyteries convened, in defiance of the royal authority, and they continued their meeting until the last day of September. "Mr. John Forbes of Alford, and Mr. John Welch at Ayr, were the principal ringleaders," and both, with some others of the most obstinate of the ministers, were punished for their contempt of the king's authority.

The parliament which assembled at Perth in July, 1606, passed two acts, extending the royal prerogative, and restoring the temporalities of the bishops. The presbyterian clergy opposed these measures with the greatest keenness, and the church of Scotland was altogether in a most distracted state. To restore tranquillity, the king called an ecclesiastical convention, which

\* Laing's History of Scotland, vol. i. p. 15.

† Ibid.

‡ Skinner's Eccles. Hist. vol. ii. p. 243.

which met at Hampton Court, on the 20th of September. The subjects of the conference were—the illegality of the meeting held at Aberdeen, and the expediency of a peaceful convention of the clergy. The bishops were sufficiently obsequious to his majesty's wishes, for their own interest was concerned; but the ministers were not so complying; and "the controversy terminated, as might have been expected, in "recrimination and reproach\*."

The presbyterian delegates were unjustly and severely punished. They had been invited to a free conference, where persuasion alone was the means proposed to reclaim them; but James resorted to coercion, and betrayed his intolerant and tyrannic principles by the imprisonment or the exile of the ministers†.

A convention was held the 10th December, 1606, at Linlithgow, which was composed of members selected by the bishops. This assembly appointed the bishops to be moderators of the presbyteries where they resided, and perpetual moderators of provincial synods. The moderators and clerks of presbyteries were declared official members of the assemblies, and rendered permanent, with their salaries dependent on the bishops. It is said, that the most turbulent and clamorous of the clergy were bribed to acquiescence in these measures, by the distribution of 40,000 merks†. If this circumstance be true, it demonstrates the venality of  
of

\* Laing's History, vol. i. p. 35.

† Ibid. p. 37.

‡ Ibid. p. 38.

of the churchmen, and proves that the episcopalians were not more pure than the other denominations of clergy.

The presbyteries were intimidated, and the greater part complied with the regulations. But in the synods, the ministers declared their independence, and rejected these ordinances of the assembly as unwarranted or illegal. The bishops, however, had obtained an important advantage, which conveyed great authority; and they suspended the provincial synods as seditious meetings. Episcopacy now gradually acquired the ascendancy over the more simple, and perhaps, more rational, form of presbyterian worship, which neither diverts the attention by ceremony, nor impresses the imagination by show, but leaves the mind to the full influence of religious abstraction.

Two courts of *High Commission* were established at St. Andrews and Glasgow (anno 1610), with authority to regulate all ecclesiastical matters, and with a jurisdiction that extended to the cognizance of the conversation, conduct, and opinions, of every individual of the kingdom\*. To give efficacy to the episcopalian system, three prelates were consecrated in London, with power to confer the apostolical character on their titular brethren at home, which they accordingly did; and the episcopal church was thus settled in Scotland, "after fifty years of confusion, and a multiplicity of windings and turnings†."

In the year 1617, the king visited Scotland, and  
called

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 38.

† Skinner, vol. ii. p. 253.

called a parliament, which met at Edinburgh on the 13th June. Although the hierarchy was nearly perfect, yet the presbyterian form of worship was retained in the church, and James was most anxious to abolish it, by assimilating the ceremonies in Scotland to those in England. But the rites in religion are often deemed of more importance than the doctrines; and an opposition to his measures was manifested in parliament. He wished to pass an act, declaring, "that in ecclesiastical affairs whatever should be determined by the king, with the advice of the prelates, and a *competent number* of the clergy, should receive the operation and force of law." A protestation was presented to parliament by the clergy against this measure, and the article was withdrawn; but Simpson and Ewart, who had signed this protest, and Calderwood, who had written it, were convicted of sedition by the high commission of St. Andrews, and punished, the former by imprisonment, and the latter by exile. Such conduct in the king and the high commission, presents a deplorable picture of regal and ecclesiastical tyranny\*.

Various ceremonies were proposed by James to be observed in the Scottish church, and they were reduced to five articles, which were adopted by the assembly held at Perth, on the 25th of August, 1618. Many of the clergy, however, and the people at large, detested these innovations as dangerous to true religion, and as too much resembling the Romish worship. But, insignificant

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 72.

significant as they were, they assumed a magnitude in the eyes of the king and the nation, that led to important consequences.—The articles of Perth were confirmed by the parliament which met at Edinburgh on the 4th August, 1621, although resisted by a numerous party. A scene of persecution now commenced, and episcopacy triumphed; but after years of civil war, and the endurance of all those calamities with which a nation can be afflicted, presbyterianism was again established.

The king died on the 27th March, 1625, at the age of sixty-nine, in the fifty-seventh year of his reign, and the twenty-second after his accession to the crown of England. He was succeeded by his son, Charles I. who was not more prudent than his father, and finally lost his crown and his life, through his interference with the religious opinions of the people, and his encroachments on their civil liberties.

William Gordon was the last of the Romish bishops who filled the see of Aberdeen; and he was succeeded by David Cunningham, son to the laird of Cunningham-head, and sub-dean of Glasgow, who was the first reformed bishop. He was preferred to this see by James VI. through the intercession of the earl of Morton, to whom he was chaplain during the time of his regency. It is said by Spottiswood, that he was a worthy man, but that the times being so bad, he had not an opportunity of doing any good. A short time before his death, he was sent by king James on an embassy to several of the princes of Germany, in which he acquitted himself

self to the satisfaction of his employer. He died at Aberdeen (anno 1603), and was succeeded by Peter Blackburn, rector of St. Nicholas' church. He was born in Glasgow, where he taught philosophy in the college for several years previously to his appointment as minister of Aberdeen. He endeavoured to conciliate the good opinion of the contending factions in the church; but while he studied to please the opponents of episcopacy, he became obnoxious to both parties, and thus lost his influence and his authority. He died at Aberdeen, anno 1615, and was succeeded by Alexander Forbes, parson of Fettercairn, of the house of Ardmurdo. He was bishop of Caithness, and translated thence to Aberdeen; but he did not enjoy his office much above a year, and died anno 1618\*.

Patrick Forbes of Corse, a descendant of the family of Forbes in Aberdeenshire, succeeded bishop Alexander Forbes. He was well educated in human learning, and inclined to virtue. He was far advanced in life before he entered into holy orders; and a curious circumstance is related, as the cause that induced him to assume the sacred character. It is said by Keith, "For a good space he refused to enter into holy orders; but at last when he was forty-eight years old, viz. anno 1612, he was prevailed upon: a very singular accident having intervened, which made him then yield, viz. the earnest obtestation of a religious minister, who, in a fit of melancholy, had stabbed himself; but survived to lament his error.†." This is not the only instance where the reveries of a mad-

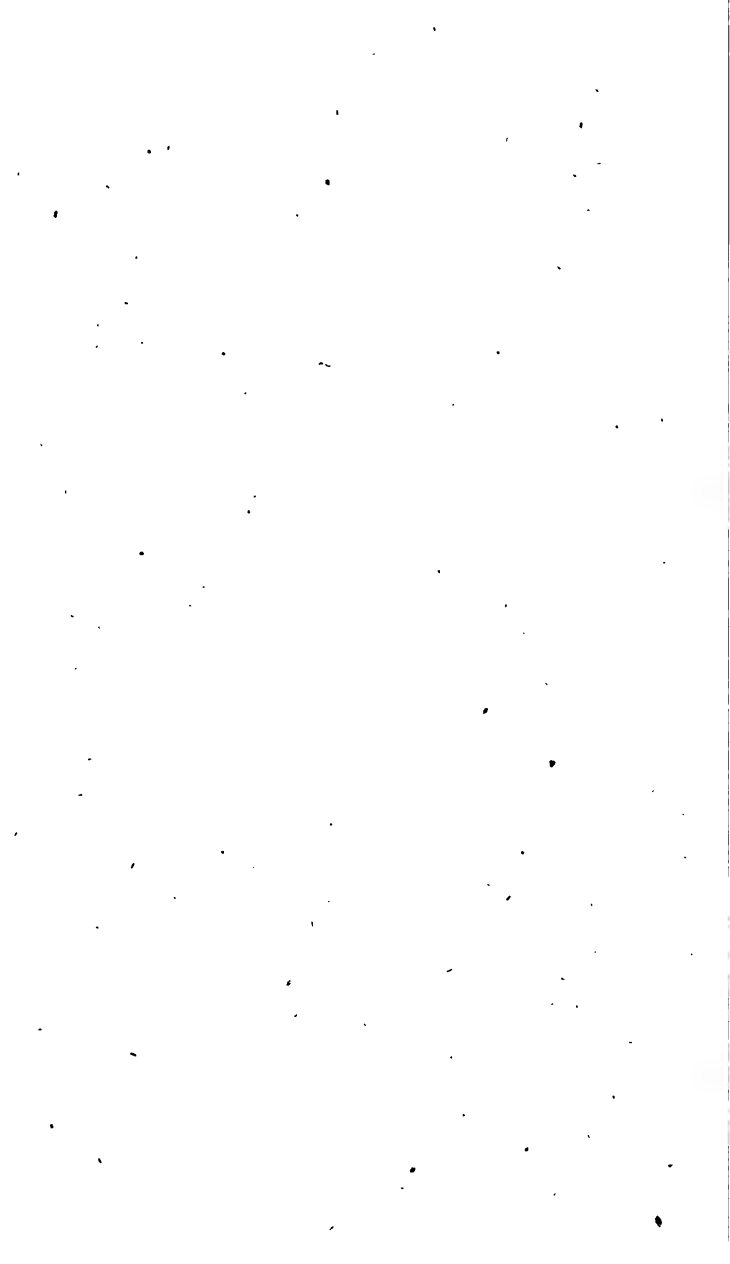
man

\* Keith's Catalogue, p. 78.

† Ibid.

man have been deemed the effusions of inspiration, and produced consequences of more importance than Mr. Forbes's introduction to the church.

He was pastor of the village of Keith in Strath-isa, in the diocese of Moray, where he remained until 1618, when he was elected bishop of Aberdeen. He made it a practice to visit the different churches within his bounds on the Lord's day, without any retinue, that he might surprise the ministers in the performance of the service. He wrote a commentary on the book of *Revelations*. He died the 28th of March, 1635, at the age of seventy-one, and was interred in the south aisle of the cathedral.





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## CHAPTER XIV.

### CONTENTS,

[PROVOSTS OF ABERDEEN—CHURCH AFFAIRS—NATIONAL COVENANT—THE “THREE APOSTLES OF THE COVENANT” AT ABERDEEN—CIVIL WAR—ABERDEEN OCCUPIED BY THE MARQUIS OF MONTROSE, &c. &c.—BRIDGE OF DEE FORCED BY MONTROSE—PEACE OF BERWICK.]

\* \* \* \*

**T**HE following gentlemen were elected provosts of Aberdeen, for the years prefixed to their names, viz.

1606, Alexander Cullen ; 1607, Alexander Rutherford ; 1608, Alexander Cullen ; 1609—1614, Alexander Rutherford ; 1615—1620, Thomas Menzies of Cults ; 1621, David Rutherford ; 1622, George Nicolson ; 1623—1633, Paul Menzies of Kinmundy ; 1634, Patrick Leslie ; 1635, Robert Johnston ; 1636, Alexander Jaffray ; 1637, Robert Johnston ; 1638\*,

2 A 2

Alexander

\* On the 9th of September this year, king Charles I. granted a charter of confirmation to the city of Aberdeen, of which the reader will find a copy in the Appendix, No. III.

Alexander Jaffray ; 1639, 1640, Patrick Leslie ; 1641, Alexander Jaffray ; 1642-3, Patrick Leslie ; 1644, Robert Farquhar ; 1645-6, Thomas Gray ; 1647, Patrick Leslie ; 1648, Thomas Gray ; 1649, Alexander Jaffray ; 1650, Robert Farquhar.

One of the first acts of king Charles's reign, was the revocation of impropriated tithes and benefices ; but the convention of estates refused to sanction the measure. It could scarcely be expected, indeed, that those of the nobility and gentry who had so long enjoyed the spoils of the church, would relinquish their plunder without a struggle. But a commission of surrender passed the Great Seal on the 26th June, 1627\*, which excited general discontent. The necessities of the crown were urgent, and the stipends of the clergy were to be augmented. Charles considered the hierarchy as a divine institution, intimately blended with the monarchy and the rights of kings. To restore it, therefore, to its ancient splendour, was the object of his solicitude ; and the clergy, in return, supported his schemes with all their influence. This impolitic measure, however, disgusted many of the most potent barons, " who leagued with the presbyterians in opposition to the crown."

Charles re-visited his native country, and was crowned on the 18th June, 1633. A parliament assembled ten days after ; and the king, by deception, threatenings, and terror, obtained its sanction to the commission of surrendries, and also, its authority to two acts  
relative

\* Skinner's Eccl. Hist. vol. ii. p. 287.

relative to the church. The one, regulating the *habits* of churchmen ; for it was deemed a matter of importance to introduce the English *surplice* ; and the other, confirming the privileges of episcopacy. These measures did not pass, however, without a strenuous opposition from a numerous and powerful party in parliament ; and his majesty's conduct on this occasion, contributed to his future ruin\*.

Through the partiality of Charles, the prelates obtained the first offices in the state ; and it will be easily believed, that their ambition, and desire for power, did not cease, nor were even diminished by their elevation. They wished to subject the country to ecclesiastical dominion, and to introduce a spiritual tyranny paramount to the civil authority. The Romish clergy were accused of meddling with state affairs, and charged with an intolerant spirit ; the presbyterians attempted to assume power, and were equally intolerant ; and now we find that the episcopalians were not better than either : in fact, all national churches (excepting our own of the present day), have constantly claimed a monopoly of opinion, or, in other words, they have wished to depress dissenters.

To establish episcopacy on a sure foundation, a book of canons was prepared, which the king confirmed

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under

\* Mr. Laing (vol. i. p. 109), mentions a curious circumstance relative to this business. He says, " Though rejected by fifteen peers, and forty-five commoners, the articles were falsely reported by the lord-register, as affirmed by parliament ;" and that his majesty interposed to prevent a scrutiny. If this be true, his majesty must be considered as a despicable character.

under the great seal, the 23d May, 1635, "enjoining  
 " all archbishops, bishops, and others exercising ec-  
 " clesiastical jurisdiction in Scotland, to see them  
 " punctually observed."—"These canons were print-  
 " ed at Aberdeen in 1636, and as soon as published,  
 " became the subject of much clamour and criticism,  
 " which indeed was no more than might be expect-  
 " ed\*." Next year, the *Liturgy* was introduced,  
 which excited the greatest alarm, lest popery should  
 be revived, to which episcopacy was supposed to be  
 analogous.

A tumult took place in Edinburgh, on Sunday, the  
 23d July, 1636, which interrupted the service. An  
 old woman committed the first act of hostility, by  
 throwing the stool she sat upon at the dean's head ;  
 and the whole city was in a state of insurrection. The  
 canons and the liturgy were generally rejected through-  
 out the kingdom. The prelates were deemed the au-  
 thors of them ; against whom the tide of popular opi-  
 nion run high. They were accused of introducing  
 idolatry, and of being the cause of the discontent which  
 prevailed. A supplication against the service-book  
 was presented to the council, subscribed by a strong  
 party of earls, barons, ministers, and burgesses. A  
 proclamation was issued against the supplicants, who,  
 in return, protested against its authority ; at the same  
 time, disclaiming the jurisdiction of the prelates, their  
 illegal rites, and canons†. The protestation was fol-  
 lowed by the establishment of an authority in opposi-  
 tion

\* Skinner's Eccl. Hist. vol. ii. p. 296.

† Laing, vol. i. p. 130.

to the government, entitled, "*The Four Tables*," consisting of the nobility, barons, ministers, and burghs; and their first act was the renewal of a *National Covenant*, by which they strengthened and cemented their union.

On the 1st March, 1638, this celebrated deed was subscribed and sworn, with uplifted hands, in Greyfriars church, by thousands of both sexes. Emissaries were dispatched over the whole country, to make converts and to obtain signatures to the new covenant. The southern and western counties readily embraced it; but in the northern districts it was not so favourably received; particularly in Aberdeen, where the influence of the marquis of Huntly, the clergy, and the learned doctors of the universities, withheld the people from subscribing\*.

Commissioners were dispatched to Aberdeen by the *Tables*, to exhort the inhabitants, and to procure their subscription to the covenant. The worthy missionaries selected for this purpose, were, Mr. Alexander Henderson, minister of Leuchars in Fife, and Mr. David Dickson of Irvine, who were desired to call to their assistance the noted Mr. Andrew Cant, minister of Pitsligo in Buchan. The renowned marquis of Montrose, who at this time was a covenanter, with the lord Coupar, the Master of Forbes, Burnett of Leys, and Grahame of Morphie, followed (20th July, 1638), to enforce the arguments of the divines. They were coolly received in the town by the magistrates and ministers,

\* Baillie's Letters, p. 72.

ministers, who refused them the use of the churches. They were determined, however, not to be disappointed in their object, and accordingly preached three times on Sunday to immense crowds, from the window of a wooden gallery in lord Marischal's Close\*, when four to five hundred subscribed. They preached again on Monday, and then "went out to the sheriffdom, " where, with much labour, they persuaded many†." They returned to Aberdeen on the Saturday following (the 29th July), having prevailed on more than half the ministers of the diocese, and many laymen, to subscribe. Dr. William Guild and Mr. Robert Reid signed the covenant conditionally, on the 30th, and afterwards the mission returned to the south country‡.

The most strenuous opponents of the "*three Apostles of the Covenant*" were the professors of the two colleges, who have always been men of abilities; and a *paper war* commenced between them, which, to be sure, did less injury to the citizens of Aberdeen, than the leaden bullets of the marquis of Montrose at a subsequent period. The learned doctors, however, although they had the advantage in point of argument, were afterwards severely punished for their temerity on this occasion, and were "persecuted with such unrelenting fury, that, to save their lives, they were forced to leave their country, and go into voluntary exile§."

On

\* Gordon's MSS. B. II. p. 75.

† Baillie's Letters, vol. i. p. 73.

‡ Spalding's History of the Troubles, vol. i. p. 70.

§ Skinner, vol. ii. p. 319.

On the 21st November this year, a General Assembly-sat down at Glasgow, composed of a motley group of earls, barons, presbyters, and burgesses; and Henderson was chosen moderator. A great deal of altercation took place between the assembly and the king's commissioner, who at last dissolved it; but the members refused obedience to his authority, and continued their sitting. They were highly gratified by the accession of the earl of Argyle, who deserted the court, and joined them\*. They proceeded to the main object of their meeting, and abjured episcopacy as anti-christian. They degraded fourteen bishops, eight of whom were excommunicated, four deposed, and two were suspended. The crimes alledged against them were of a heinous nature. They were accused of superstitious innovations—the abuse of power—simony—irregularity in their lives—and an utter disregard of decency†. It is not probable that these allegations were true; but they afforded a pretence for the suppression of prelacy; and the assembly, on the 20th of December, arose in triumph.

A civil war was now inevitable, and both parties prepared for the contest. The king summoned the nobility of England to attend him at York, and his intention was to invade Scotland in all quarters. The covenanters were no less active. They called a general meeting of their party, to be held at Edinburgh on the 20th February, 1639, which accordingly assembled; and it was resolved to raise an army, and to appoint

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 147.

† Ibid. p. 149.

appoint general Leslie to the command. The castles of Edinburgh and Dumbarton, and the palace of Dalkeith were seized, together with a large store of ammunition and arms\*.

The city of Aberdeen still adhered to the king's interest, and were encouraged to reject the measures of the covenanters, by the marquis of Huntly, the magistrates, the clergy, and the doctors of the universities. The marquis of Montrose and general Leslie collected an army from the southern counties to impose the covenant on the northern districts, and to seize Huntly; and the citizens of Aberdeen prepared for a siege. They were drilled to the use of arms by colonel Johnston; and on the 1st March they began to fortify the town, by casting a ditch from the Gallowgate port along the north side down to the Castle-hill; and on the south side, opposite to the loch, they raised a wooden breastwork for the purpose of sheltering their musqueteers. Eleven pieces of ordnance were planted on the streets†. A seasonable supply of arms and ammunition was received on the 17th of March; a yacht and transport having arrived from England at the port of Aberdeen, with two thousand musquets, and a thousand pikes, with harness and arms for horse and foot, lead, powder, and matches, which were delivered to the marquis of Huntly.

At this time, the marquis received a commission from the king, appointing him lieutenant of the northern

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 154.

† Spalding, vol. i. p. 118.



ern division of Scotland extending from the river Dee to the extremity of Caithness, which was proclaimed at the cross of Aberdeen on the 16th of March. In consequence of this commission, the marquis immediately proceeded to operate, and summoned all the loyalists from the age of sixteen to sixty, to meet him in arms, with fifteen days provisions, on the 25th of March. On the 22d, the inhabitants of the Old Town and Spittal, mustered their strength under the inspection of the bishop, to the number of a hundred and sixty men; but they were, "for the most part, feeble, weak, and unarmed\*." On the same day, King's College was abandoned by the masters, members, and students, and its gates were shut.

Notwithstanding these preparations, the citizens of Aberdeen were intimidated at the approach of the covenanters; and the country at large was more inclined to support, than to oppose them. The marquis of Huntly and the magistrates of Aberdeen conceiving, therefore, that resistance would be in vain, sent commissioners to the convention of the covenanters held at Montrose, proposing terms of accommodation. But evasive answers were returned, which "bred great fear to the burgh of Aberdeen†;" and the marquis hastily retired to Inverury, where he had ordered his forces to assemble; but he either thought his army too weak to oppose the enemy, or could not rely on the fidelity of his troops, for he immediately ordered them to disperse‡.

Montrose

\* Spalding, vol. i. p. 116.

† Ibid. p. 118.

‡ Ibid.

Montrose and Leslie now marched to Aberdeen with about nine thousand foot and horse, accompanied by earl Marischal, the earl of Kinghorn, the lords Erskine, Carnegie, and Elcho. They entered the town on the 30th, about ten o'clock morning, by the Upperkirkgate port, and came down the Broadgate, passing through Castle-street, by the Justice Port, to the Links, where they encamped. They were joined on the same day by lord Frazer, the master of Forbes, and other barons, with about two thousand men from the northern counties. The earl of Kinghorn was appointed governor of the town, which he garrisoned with fifteen hundred men; and the citizens were set to work to fill up the ditches. Montrose put his army in motion about four o'clock, afternoon, and marched to Kintore, where he halted for two days. He then advanced to Inverury, where he pitched his camp; and to prevent his farther progress, Huntly sent Gordon of Straloch to propose a meeting for the purpose of an accommodation, which accordingly took place; and Huntly, with the twelve gentlemen who accompanied him to the place of meeting, went with Montrose to his head-quarters at Inverury.

In the meantime, the earl of Kinghorn proceeded to regenerate the town, and to enforce the covenant. A committee was appointed to sit within the Greyfriars church, to receive subscriptions to the covenant; and the principal and regents of King's College, with the doctors and ministers were summoned to appear before the committee under certification; and also all those who had not yet subscribed, whether churchmen or laymen. The  
provost,

provost, bailies, and council, with many others, complied ; but the principal of the college, the professors, and the greater part of the clergy, had previously fled.

On the 6th April, Montrose broke up his camp at Inverury, and marched to Aberdeen, where he arrived on the same day ; and encamped again in the Links. Next day (Sunday), the churches of the Old and New Town were filled with soldiers, and the preachers of the covenanters published the assembly's sentence of excommunication against the prelates. On Monday (the 8th), Montrose mustered his army, and dismissed all those who from weakness of body were unable to do duty. On the 9th, the earl of Seaforth, the master of Lovat, the provost of Elgin, and others, to the number of three hundred, came to Aberdeen to offer their services, and remained until the 13th, when they returned home.

On Wednesday the 10th, a solemn fast was held, and after sermon the covenant was read, to which the people, both men and women, swore, with uplifted hands. " But the Lord knows," says Spalding\*, " how thir town's people were brought under perjury " for plain fear, and not from a willing mind, by tyranny and oppression of thir covenanters, who compelled them to swear and subscribe, suppose they " knew it was against thir hearts."

On Thursday, the 11th, the commissioners appointed by the General Assembly, visited King's College ; and the members, excepting those who were absent,

\* Vol. i. p. 132.

were ordained to make public profession of religion in the church of St. Machar.

The Argyle Highlanders, amounting to five hundred, joined Montrose, having quartered for several days on the lands of Drum and Pitfoddles, "where" they had very good fare for little payment." They conducted themselves, however, with so much propriety in Aberdeen, that the town gave them a present of five hundred merks\*.

Montrose having now accomplished his object, and without bloodshed, subjected the northern parts of the kingdom to the authority of the *Tables*, prepared to return to the south country. But as the reluctance of the people of Aberdeen to subscribe the covenant, had been the ostensible pretence of his visit, he demanded a contribution of a hundred thousand merks. The provost, however, having assured him, that the town could not possibly pay such a sum, he compromised it for ten thousand†, upon condition that the inhabitants should contribute, in future, to the common cause, in men and money, which they accordingly promised to do. General Leslie marched from Aberdeen on the 12th, with the foot army, and field pieces. Montrose, and the other nobles, with the horse, remained until next day, for the purpose of seizing the marquis of Huntly, whom they conveyed to

\* Spalding, vol. i. p. 134.

† This was the first levy in money that was made for the maintenance of the army of the covenanters; and the *Tables* fined the town in forty thousand merks additional, on account of this business.

to Edinburgh, where they arrived on the 19th of April. Huntly refusing to subscribe the covenant, was ward-  
ed in the castle of Edinburgh, from which he was li-  
berated at the pacification of Berwick.

On the 16th April, a provincial synod was held in  
Aberdeen, which filled up the vacancies in the college,  
and appointed new ministers in the places of those who  
had absconded.

The friends of Huntly were greatly irritated by his  
seizure and imprisonment, and perhaps, were not fully  
converted to the principles of the covenanters. The  
lord Aboyne, and laird of Banff, with their kinsmen  
of the name of Gordon, manifested their hostile inten-  
tions by collecting their vassals to the number of two  
thousand horse and foot, with whom they stood in a  
defensive posture. The earls Marischal and Seaforth;  
the lord Frazer and master of Forbes, supported the  
interest of the covenanters; and they assembled on  
the 25th at Aberdeen, where many barons, gentlemen,  
and others, from Buchan, Marr, &c. joined them; in  
all about three thousand. Earl Marischal assumed the  
government of Aberdeen, quartered his troops, placed  
guards, and took possession of the keys of the tolbooth,  
kirks, and ports. Both armies, however, soon after-  
wards broke up, without coming in contact, or shed-  
ding any blood on the occasion.

A committee of the covenanters had appointed a  
meeting to be held at Turriff on the 20th May; and  
the heads of the party, consisting of the lord Frazer,

master of Forbes, &c. assembled with twelve hundred of their followers, on the 13th; but the Gordons surprised and dispersed them, having killed several, and taken some prisoners. The victorious party now marched to Aberdeen, of which they took possession, and retaliated upon the covenanters all the hardships the loyalists had formerly experienced from Montrose. Spalding justly remarks, "No doubt this  
" was very grievous to Aberdeen, to be so used by  
" each party that were masters of the field, whereas  
" all the other burrows of Scotland lived both first and  
" last at great rest and quietness\*."

At this time the houses and lands of those gentlemen who had signed the covenant, along Dee-side, and throughout Aberdeenshire, were plundered, wasted, and destroyed. At this troublesome period, armies were easily collected, and hastily disbanded. The Gordons remained only five days in Aberdeen, and dismissed their troops on the 21st May, with permission to the Highlanders to plunder the covenanters wherever they pleased. On the same day that the Gordons left Aberdeen, earl Marischal entered the town with about eight hundred horse and foot, and the anti-covenanters were now in their turn, harassed and oppressed. On the 24th, two thousand men joined the earl; and next day, Montrose, Kinghorn, and others, again entered Aberdeen with about four thousand horse and foot, and thirteen field pieces. As formerly, they marched in order of battle through Broadgate and Castlegate to the

\* Spalding, vol. i. p. 152.

the Links, where they remained all night. The insurrection of the Gordons had occasioned the march of Montrose's army to the north; and the people of Aberdeen were implicated in their transactions, which drew forth the resentment of the covenanters of the southern parts of the kingdom.

The soldiery carried their depredations to great excess in the country around Aberdeen, plundering both friends and enemies, and violently seizing every thing within their reach that was either of value or of use\*. The town was fined ten thousand merks, and deprived of their twelve pieces of artillery, but, with the exception of arms, nothing was taken from individuals.

Montrose marched northwards with his army on the 30th May, with the intention of wasting the lands of the anti-covenanters; but when he had sat down before the castle of Gight, he received intelligence that the lords Aboyne, Glencairn, and Tullibardine; Colonel Gunn, and other loyalists, had arrived in Aberdeen Roads, with a considerable force. He therefore quickly returned to Aberdeen, where he arrived on the 3d June. After remaining three days he retreated to the county of Angus. The leaders of the

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loyalists.

\* Spalding mentions (vol. i. p. 169), that they were particularly severe on the canine species, and accounts for it in this way. When Montrose's army was last in Aberdeen, the officers and men wore blue ribbons round their necks; and when they retired from the town, some of the women in derision, adorned their dogs in the same manner. This was a joke the covenanters could not bear, and they now resented it by killing every dog in Aberdeen.

loyalists now landed from their transports. They caused a proclamation from the king to be read at the cross, and again returned to their ships. They expected three thousand men from Hamilton, who commanded the English fleet which was then in the Forth; but they were completely disappointed, and Glencairn and Tullibardine returned home in disgust. Lewis Gordon (the third son of the marquis), however, came to Aberdeen with about a thousand horse and foot, and four brass field pieces. The houses of the covenanters were occupied by the soldiers, and in their turn, they now suffered all the hardships of retaliation.

Lord Aboyne, in virtue of his commission as the king's lieutenant, summoned all true subjects to repair to his standard, and his force soon increased to two thousand. From Aberdeen he raised two hundred men, and from the Old Town, forty; and altogether, his army mustered about four thousand; with which he marched from Aberdeen to Muchals, on the 14th of June, with the intention of penetrating through Mearns and Angus, and punishing the covenanters of these counties. But he was opposed at Stonehaven, by Montrose, and the earl Marischal, who had collected about two thousand men. Aboyne drew up his army on Megray-hill, within half a mile of the enemy; but a few cannon shots having fallen among the Highlanders, who were unaccustomed to artillery, they fled; and the panic spreading from the one end of their line to the other, the whole took to flight. Aboyne returned to Aberdeen with part of his horsemen, and endeavoured to collect the fugitives of his army.

Montrose



Montrose and earl Marischal advanced to the bridge of Dee on the 18th, but they found it fortified, and guarded by a hundred musqueteers from Aberdeen, who defended it until next day, when Montrose's horsemen made a feint to cross the river, a little above the bridge. Aboyne imprudently drew off his horsemen to oppose the passage of those of the enemy; and the defence of the bridge was left to captain Johnstoun, with only fifty musqueteers, who, being overpowered, precipitately fled to Aberdeen. Aboyne also took to flight with his horse, without firing a shot, and thus Montrose became master of the bridge, and of his four pieces of brass cannon, with scarcely the loss of a man.

The hardships of war are generally severe, but at this period, they were heightened by the rancorous spirit of party; and the loyalists of Aberdeen dreaded a terrible chastisement. They fled from the town, "with their wives and children in their arms, and "carried on their backs, weeping and mourning most "pitifully, straying here and there, not knowing "where to go\*."

The pacification of Berwick took place on the 18th of June, of which the leaders of the covenanting army had hourly expected to receive intelligence, even before the attack on the bridge of Dee; but they did not wish to be deprived of the fruits of their expedition, and accordingly, fined the inhabitants in six thousand merks, as the price of their forbearance from plundering the town. On the 21st, the whole army marched southwards;

\* Spalding, vol. i. p. 176.

southwards; and, in consequence of the peace, the country, for a time, was relieved from the miseries of war\*.

## CHAPTER

\* Gordon says (MS. b. 5. sect. 56.), That Montrose had received express orders from the committee of estates to burn the town of Aberdeen, which was only saved by the interference of earl Marischal.

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## CHAPTER XV.

### CONTENTS.

[RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES—SUBSCRIPTION OF THE COVENANT—VARIOUS TRANSACTIONS AT ABERDEEN—CESSATION OF ARMS AT RIPPON—CHARLES VISITS SCOTLAND—SOLEMN LEAGUE AND COVENANT—COMMENCEMENT OF A NEW WAR—BATTLES OF MONTROSE—SACK OF ABERDEEN—PROGRESS OF MONTROSE—HIS DEFEAT AT PHILIPHAUGH—MARQUIS OF HUNTLY—GENERAL MIDDLETON—COLONEL DAVID BARCLAY OF URY—CHARLES'S ARRIVAL AT THE SCOTISH CAMP AT NEWARK—PESTILENCE AT ABERDEEN.]

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THE pacification at Berwick was no more than a hollow truce which neither party intended to observe; for the king was fully as unprincipled as his enemies, and it was necessity alone that extorted the concessions which the Scotch commissioners then obtained\*.

The General Assembly sat down at Edinburgh on the 12th August, 1639, and "all that had been done" at Glasgow was now confirmed: episcopacy utterly  
"extirpated;

\* See Laing's History, vol. i. p 159—165.

“ extirpated ; the service-book, canons, and articles of  
 “ Perth abolished ; and their own covenant ratified  
 “ and ordained to be sworn to and subscribed by all  
 “ the subjects in the kingdom\*.” On the 30th, the  
 assembly was dissolved ; and, next day, the parliament  
 convened, and ratified all its acts ; but having  
 proceeded to settle a variety of other matters, a  
 sudden prorogation interrupted the estates in their  
 career of reformation.

When there was so little cordiality subsisting between the king and the covenanters, it could not be difficult to find a pretext for the renewal of hostilities. But Charles found sufficient ground for a quarrel, by the detection of a letter from seven of the chief nobility, addressed to the king of France, soliciting assistance against him ; and lord Loudon, the writer of it, was sent to the tower. A convention of estates again appointed Leslie commander in chief, on the 16th of April, 1640 ; and before the middle of July, a numerous army was ready to take the field†. On the 21st August, the covenanters entered England, and seized Newcastle upon Tyne. To preserve the appearance of moderation, they sent a supplication to the king at York. His army was mutinous, and he consented to their terms. A cessation of arms for two months, was settled at Rippon, on the 16th October, and the demands of the Scots were referred to the consideration of the parliament of England, which met on

\* Skinner, vol. ii. p. 346.

† Twenty-three thousand foot, three thousand horse, and a train of artillery.

on the 3d of November. The claims of the covenanters were fully sustained, and they farther received from parliament three hundred thousand pounds, "as a friendly assistance and relief thought fit to be made toward the losses and necessities of *our brethren* in Scotland."

In the absence of the army, and during the progress of the treaty, the covenanters were active at home, and zealously enforced obedience to the acts of their committee, particularly the subscription of the covenant, to which the people were compelled to swear, by threats or punishment. The earl Marischal was extremely assiduous in this business; and he came to Aberdeen on the 2d of March, 1640, accompanied by lord Frazer, to "see the covenant and bond subscribed by the township." The provost, bailies, and council, with the exception of three or four, were themselves covenanters, and they heartily joined with the earl in promoting the "goodlie work" of subscribing and swearing. But many refused, whose names were carefully recorded, that they might be objects of future oppression. A bond of allegiance had been formerly subscribed, at the *command* of lord Aboyne, which was still in the custody of the town-clerk. It was an evidence against the covenanters, which they wished to destroy; and the earl gratified them, by tearing it in pieces as soon as he had received it from the hands of the provost.

It is lamentable to observe, how often the people were forced by the barbarous leaders of the different parties, to subscribe, and to swear to bonds, perfectly contradictory.

contradictory. The frequency of such opposite engagements, constantly made more awful by the exaction of a solemn oath, must have lessened the effect, or destroyed the consequences of an obligation which the practice of all nations has consecrated to truth. Whatever might have been the morality of the chiefs of the contending factions, yet they ought to have respected the consciences of other men, and not unhinged their honest principles by the prostitution of every thing that was deemed sacred.

The earl Marischal returned to Aberdeen on the 2d of May, with about a hundred and sixty horse, and established a committee for the government of the town and county. The subscription of the covenant by those who had not formerly subscribed, was the principal business of the committee; and the exaction of six thousand merks from the borough, seems to have been the earl's particular object. A muster of those capable of bearing arms in Aberdeen was made at this time, and in all they amounted to two hundred and sixty men; but many of the anti-covenanters were absent. General Munro arrived at Aberdeen on the 28th of May, with a small army, consisting of about eight hundred foot and forty horse, which were in good order, "having blue bonnets on their heads, "with feathers waving in the wind." He made a requisition on the town for various supplies, such as bread, beer, shoes, cloth, &c. to be provided by the 2d June, for the use of the army in England under general Leslie. He enrolled a hundred and fifty of the citizens of Aberdeen, in his own ranks, and being joined by other le-

vies to the amount of eight hundred more, he sent out small parties to pillage the country, especially the houses and lands of the loyalists, and to seize their persons, a number of whom were fined by the estates in heavy sums. Monro made a plundering expedition through the lands of the Gordons, and pitched his camp at Strathbogie, which he broke up on the 10th of August, having remained there for more than a month\*. He "left that country almost manless, monyless, horseless, and armless, so pitifully was the same born down and subdued," although "the people sware and subscribed the covenant most obediently†." After wasting the country as far as Morayshire, Monro returned to Aberdeen on the 6th September. On the 9th, he issued an order to furnish his soldiers with clothing, shirts, and shoes, which was obeyed; and also to advance ten thousand merks to be repaid from the tenths to be collected within the sheriffdom of Aberdeen‡. On the 12th of September, he marched southwards, with his whole army.

The master of Forbes was left in the command of the district with his own regiment; and he frequently sent out parties to plunder those who were backward in the payment of the tenths. This species of exac-

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\* On the 3d August, Mr. Andrew Cant was translated from Newbottle to Aberdeen, by the voice of the General Assembly which met at Aberdeen on the 28th July.

† Spalding, vol. i. p. 247.

‡ A tenth of rents, and the twentieth penny of interest, were imposed as an assessment for the defence of the country by the Scottish parliament,

tion comprehended every thing that could be carried off, and the country was dreadfully oppressed by these armed marauders. Heavy requisitions of shoes, clothes, and shirts, were imposed on the town and neighbourhood, which were shipped and sent to Newcastle, for the use of Leslie's army. On the 22d of October, lord Sinclair's regiment arrived at Aberdeen, and were quartered for some time in the town; but their *military chest* being exhausted, they were obliged to provide for themselves in the best manner they could, which they did, by roving over the country, and everywhere plundering the defenceless.

The cessation of arms at Rippon (16th Oct. 1640), put a period to these oppressive transactions, but not until the country was almost entirely drained by the various assessments in money, provisions, and clothing, required for the maintenance of the armies, exclusive of the general depredation that took place on the properties of those who were inimical to the measures of the covenanters.

Charles again visited Scotland, and the parliament sat down on the 19th of August, 1641. He was anxious to conciliate the Scots, as he apprehended a rupture with his English subjects, and therefore conceded every thing they could desire. Montrose had become disgusted with the covenanters, who had not sufficiently appreciated his services, and he entered into a counter-association, to which he had procured the subscription of nineteen peers\*. The discovery of this plot exasperated

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 198.



exasperated the estates ; and Montrose, with his friends, was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, where the king found them on his arrival in Scotland, but he had the pleasure of seeing them liberated before his departure.

The business of parliament being finished to the entire satisfaction of the estates, it rose on the 17th of November ; and next morning, his majesty commenced his journey to London.

The arbitrary measures of the king, and his particular prejudices in regard to religious matters, had excited general discontent among the puritanical party in England, who were emboldened from the success of the Scottish covenanters, to pursue schemes which tended to diminish the prerogative of the crown. The king thought the dearest interests of the monarchy affected by their conduct and claims. The parliament, on the other hand, apprehended the overthrow of the civil liberties of the country, in which their own safety was implicated ; and pretences were soon found by both parties for an appeal to arms. They encountered at Shrewsbury on the 23d of October, 1642, when the parliamentary forces under Essex were defeated by those under the king. The war was attended by various success, and alternate triumphs crowned the respective armies. Gibbon justly remarks (b. v. vol. i.), that " the civil wars of modern Europe have been distinguished, not only by the fierce animosity, but " likewise, by the obstinate perseverance of the contending factions. They have generally been justified by some principle, or, at least, coloured by some

“ pretext of religion, freedom, or loyalty. The leaders were nobles of independent property, and hereditary influence. The troops fought like men interested in the decision of the quarrel; and as military spirit and party zeal were strongly diffused throughout the whole community, a vanquished chief was immediately supplied with new adherents, eager to shed their blood in the same cause.”— These observations fully apply to the war of this period in both kingdoms.

The mediation of the Scots was rejected by Charles; and from a sympathy of feeling and a similarity of situation, the convention of estates determined to support the common cause by an union with the parliament of England. A *Solemn League and Covenant* was therefore entered into (17th August, 1643), by the contracting parties, for their mutual defence and protection, the preservation of their religion, rights, and liberties, which was ordained in both kingdoms to be universally subscribed and sworn to by the people.

The immediate result of this league was a treaty with the convention for twenty-one thousand horse and foot to be retained in the pay, and for the service of England\*. Old Leslie, now earl of Leven, was appointed to command the army, which marched to Newcastle in the depth of winter, with the view of surprising that fortified place; but before they arrived, it was secured from assault, and the Scots advanced to the siege of York. Prince Rupert came to  
its

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 234.

its relief, and a battle ensued on Marston-moor, in which the allies were victorious, having totally routed the royal army. The Scots returned to the siege of Newcastle, and it was taken by a desperate assault. But while they were contending so gallantly in the north of England, the flames of war burst forth in the bosom of their own country, and blazed with destructive rage\*.

As soon as the treaty with the parliament of England was ratified, an order was issued by the estates, commanding all men from sixteen to sixty years of age, to provide themselves in arms (18th August, 1643); and sums of money, with quotas of men, were allotted to each county as a conscription for the public service. The sheriffdom of Aberdeen was valued at a hundred thousand merks, of which the town had to pay eighteen thousand four hundred, as its proportion of this assessment.

Although the majority of the nation approved of the measures of the convention, yet there were many attached to the royal cause, some of whom were powerful, particularly the marquis of Huntly, and Gordon of Haddo, who were both proscribed, and orders were issued to apprehend them. Provost Jaffray, with the sheriffs, and forty horsemen, went out to seize Haddo in his own house, but he was not to be found; and some of his friends having fired a few shots among this party, each man took to his heels, and ran home as fast as he could.

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\* Laing, vol. i. p. 248.

To defray the expence of the war, and to repay the money borrowed by the estates, an excise tax was enacted, which embraced every commodity within the kingdom. This tax was to continue during the war, or, at farthest, for one year. The whole country was divided into regular commands; and a complete system of military organization was established.

The quota of men for the borough of Aberdeen, consisting of a hundred and thirty, marched from the town on the 16th July, 1644. They were raised and furnished at the expence of the community. Each man received a suit of clothes, and two shirts, with a musquet and sword, and powder and ball; or sword and pike, according to order. The pay of each soldier was six shillings Scots per day, and every twelve were allowed a baggage horse, worth L.50 Scots, with utensils for cooking their victuals. Their enlisting money was estimated at ten dollars each, and altogether, this small body of men cost the town of Aberdeen above ten thousand pounds Scots\*. If we make allowance for the difference in the value of money between that period and the present, it will appear, that the expence of equipping an army then, was equal to what L.77 sterling a man, would be at the present day. The expence of horsemen was still greater, being L.180 each, of which the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, furnished 240, amounting to L.43,200 Scots.

The marquis of Huntly and Gordon of Haddo being outlawed, an insurrection of their clan was apprehended, which

\* Spalding, vol. ii. p. 150.

which considerably alarmed the inhabitants of Aberdeen; and their remaining militia, about a hundred and twenty, were daily drilled in the Links. Watches were placed day and night. The ports were closed at ten o'clock evening, and opened at six in the morning. The town, however, was not sufficiently guarded; for on the 19th of March, Haddo, with a few of his friends, about sixty horsemen, dashed into the town a little past seven o'clock morning, seized provost Lesly, Robert Farquhar, and Alexander Jaffray, late bailies, with John Jaffray, dean of guild, and after remaining about two hours, he carried them off to Strathbogie. This was deemed by both parties a gallant action, as it was performed in the face of the whole citizens, including their hundred and twenty soldiers\*.

The marquis of Huntly who had constantly adhered to the royal cause, began to demonstrate a hostile intention, by collecting and arraying his vassals. He came to Aberdeen on the 26th March, with about five hundred horse and foot. He held various meetings with his friends in the lower council-house, and it was resolved that he should raise a flying army to scour the northern districts, and to be a rallying point to the loyalists in these quarters. He disarmed the inhabitants of Aberdeen, and seized four pieces of ordnance from a ship in the harbour. That his reasons might be known for thus appearing in a warlike attitude, he issued a well written proclamation, explanatory of his motives, of which the following is a copy.

“ 16th

\* Perhaps the hundred and twenty soldiers had been drilling in the Links *all the while!*

“ 16th March, 1644.

“ I, George, marquis of Huntly. Whereas the  
“ committee of estates hath (without his majesty’s  
“ approbation), directed the sheriffs of Aberdeen and  
“ Banff for seizing upon my person, houses, rents,  
“ and goods, contrary not only to the established or-  
“ der of law, which requireth all men to be legally  
“ accused before they be condemned, and to be crimi-  
“ nally condemned ere any such commission be di-  
“ rected against them; but also reflecting upon his  
“ majesty’s subjects their lawful privileges of this  
“ kingdom, no less than the late published act for the  
“ collecting of an unusual excise, and for enforcing a  
“ general loan of monies throughout the country, and  
“ finding some stop in the execution of this commis-  
“ sion by those who were entrusted therewith, have  
“ now prepared some forces from the south, whereby  
“ to press their designs against me, for no other cause  
“ but that I refuse to concur with them in the levy of  
“ men and money, for assisting the present invasion  
“ of England, contrary to my conscience, incompati-  
“ ble with my humble loyalty to our gracious sove-  
“ reign, and so destructive to the late pacification, so-  
“ lemnly ratified by his majesty, and parliaments of  
“ both kingdoms, as no honest Christian (being of this  
“ my opinion), can willingly condescend to be con-  
“ tained in it. Therefore, I, the said George, marquis  
“ of Huntly, do hereby declare and protest, that (if  
“ in that just defence of myself and friends from these  
“ unlawful violences, or in the repairing of them ac-  
“ cording to our weak abilities), any acts of hostility  
“ shall

" shall be committed by us against our invaders, and  
 " their confederates and abettors, they may not be  
 " imputed unto us, otherwise than as payments of the  
 " debts we owe to nature, loyalty, and honour, and to  
 " which no lower interest could enforce us; which  
 " being, as I hope, a sufficient evidence to all the  
 " world of my fair intentions for rendering the sincere  
 " and humble duties I owe to religion, his majesty's  
 " honour and safety, and to the laws and liberties of  
 " the kingdom, I humbly entreat and expect appro-  
 " bation from all good men in this so equitable and so  
 " necessitate a case; withal imploring (upon my  
 " bended knees) such heavenly assistance from God  
 " Almighty, and such earthly protection from the  
 " king's majesty, against all enemies of peace and lo-  
 " yalty, as in their mercy and justice may seem fit\*."

The marquis had received the assurance of assistance  
 from the earls of Airly, Athol, Seaforth, &c., and also  
 expected the arrival of Montrose, Crawford, Kinnoul,  
 Nithsdale, the viscount Aboyne, and the lord Ogilvy,  
 with forces to employ the troops of the estates in the  
 south and west of Scotland. A general plundering for  
 money, arms, horses, provisions, and every thing re-  
 quisite for war, took place throughout the counties of  
 Aberdeen and Banff, which was also extended to the  
 northern parts of Mearns-shire.

The estates were not indifferent to these prepara-  
 tions; and the committees of Angus and Mearns were  
 ordered to levy forces for the purpose of suppressing  
 the insurrection of the Gordons. The *Kirk*, also, were  
 not

\* See Spalding, vol. ii. p. 164.

not backward in their efforts to contribute to the common cause; for they excommunicated the marquis and his friends on the 14th April, in St. Giles in Edinburgh.

It is apparent that the royal cause was unpopular in the country, for notwithstanding Huntly's activity, he could only bring into the field such men as were under his immediate influence; and his party were not able to collect a force sufficient to meet that which was coming against them. Despair seized the chiefs of the Gordons, and they dispersed, without a struggle in the king's favour, on the 30th of April. The marquis retired to Auchindown on the 7th May, from which he liberated provost Lesly and the magistrates of Aberdeen; and he now only sought his own safety in concealment.

The army of the covenanters entered Aberdeen on the 2d of May, under the lords Burleigh and Elcho, the earls Marischal and Kinghorn, with the lord Carnegie, consisting of two thousand foot, and four hundred horse, with standards on which was inscribed, "*For the Covenant, Religion, the Crown, and the Kingdom.*" The marquis of Argyle, commander in chief, joined them with a considerable force, and altogether, they now formed an army of six thousand men.

On the 4th May, the covenanters broke up their camp, and marched northwards to regenerate the country. They assembled their friends at Turriff on the 16th of May, from the shires of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, whom they mustered to the number of two thousand horse and foot. The marquis of Huntly escaped



taped his pursuers, and took refuge in Caithness, where he remained until the 4th of October, 1645. The loyalists, and all those who had supported Huntly, were dreadfully oppressed by the covenanters, who everywhere pillaged, burned, and destroyed their property. A loan of £1000 sterling was exacted from the town of Aberdeen, of which each citizen contributed his proportion, according to his circumstances.

As no enemy appeared in the field, it was not thought necessary to keep the covenanting army longer embodied, and they returned to Aberdeen by detachments, where they were gradually disbanded. The marquis of Argyle departed from Aberdeen on the 30th of May, but promised to return to attend the great committee to be held on the 24th July. He was then, however, otherwise employed; and lord Burleigh sat as president of the committee, which was composed of earls Marischal and Findlater, the lords Elcho, Fraser, Carnegie, and many other barons and gentlemen. The principal business of this committee was, extorting money for the public service by way of a *forced loan*, and imposing heavy fines on the anti-covenanters, but especially on those who had joined or aided the marquis of Huntly.

The marquis of Montrose, who had become the most inveterate enemy of the covenanters, appeared in Athole, with fifteen hundred Irish troops, and so celebrated was his name, that his army soon increased to three thousand. It would exceed our limits to follow this knight-errant minutely through all his wanderings; but as the town of Aberdeen so severely felt the weight  
of

of his sword, it may be proper to relate concisely the most important operations of his sanguinary campaigns.

The estates were sufficiently alarmed at the progress of the Irish, who had ravaged the northern extremity of Argyleshire, and traversed the extensive range of Lochaber and Badenoch. But they still more dreaded the appearance of Montrose, whose popularity and gallantry were well known. Six thousand horse and foot were stationed at Perth under lord Elcho, which had been hastily drawn from the adjacent counties\*. Montrose attacked them on Tippermuir, routed and dispersed them on the 1st of September. He became master of their baggage and artillery; and the immediate consequence of this victory was, the surrender of Perth, where he obtained clothing, arms, and ammunition. He was now joined by the earl of Airly, the lords Duplin and Spynie, with their adherents. But as the earl of Argyle was following him with a superior force, he marched northwards, with the view of raising the Gordons, on whom he relied for a considerable addition of strength.

The lord Gordon, who had attached himself to the covenanters, either from interest or inclination, was appointed by the committee lieutenant-general of the district, comprehending Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray shires. He collected three thousand men at Kil-drummy; but the lords Forbes, Frazer, and Crichton, refusing to serve under him, his followers deserted, and he retired in disgust. Lord Burleigh, president of the  
committee,

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 252.

committee, took the command of the town, and prepared to oppose the progress of Montrose. A proclamation was issued on the 6th of September, ordering the men of the sheriffdoms of Aberdeen, Kincardine, and Banff, to rendezvous at Aberdeen on the 9th and 10th, and those of Morayshire on the 12th and 13th; but few assembled, excepting from the county of Aberdeen. Lord Burleigh, however, collected about three thousand horse and foot, including the men of Aberdeen, who were commanded by major Arthur Forbes, having under him as captains, Patrick Leslie, younger, Alexander Lumsden, Alexander Burnett, and Thomas Melvine.

Montrose crossed the Dee at the mills of Drum, on Wednesday, the 11th of September, and pitched his camp at Crathes. Lord Burleigh marched out his army on the same day to the two-mile cross, but he returned to the town on Thursday evening, and Montrose took up that position. On Friday, the 13th, Montrose sent a commissioner with a letter to the provost, accompanied by a drummer, to beat the parley, requesting that he would deliver up the town to him as the king's lieutenant, assuring the provost at the same time, that no injury should be done to the people; but, in the event of refusal, he desired that all the old men, women, and children, might be removed. The provost assembled the council in the house of Alexander Findlater, at the Bow bridge, where lord Burleigh, and other military officers, attended. They returned an answer importing that they would defend themselves to the uttermost; but by design or acci-

dent, the drummer was killed, which greatly enraged Montrose. He advanced from the two-mile cross, and Burleigh marched out about 11 o'clock forenoon, to meet him. Both armies drew up on that flat piece of ground where the Bridewell is situated, and the action now commenced by a discharge of artillery. Montrose's army behaved most gallantly; but we can scarcely believe, that his forty-four horsemen, traversing from wing to wing, should defeat lord Burleigh's five hundred cavalry. It is certain, however, that the Irish and Highlanders made a fierce attack on the covenanters, who ingloriously fled. Those on horseback escaped, but the foot soldiers were pursued into the town, which was sacked, and many of the citizens were butchered in the streets. Spalding gives a distressing account of the cruelties committed by the Irish. They murdered every man they could find, stript off the clothes of the dead, and left their naked bodies unburied. They continued the pillage for three days, with all the wanton barbarity of the most ferocious savages. "The wife durst not cry nor weep at the husband's slaughter before her eyes, nor the daughter for her father, which if they did, and were heard, they were also presently slain\*."

Montrose marched from Aberdeen on the 16th, to Kintore; thence to Inverury and the Garioch. Argyle's army arrived at Aberdeen on the 18th, having been joined at Brechin by lord Gordon, earl Marischal, the lords Fraser and Crichton. Lord Burleigh, with

\* Spalding, vol. ii. p. 237.

with the chief covenanters of the town, who had so shamefully fled from the field of battle, now joined Argyle, whose force amounted to about six thousand horse and foot. They lived at free quarters; but the town could furnish little to support them\*, and the country, as usual, was plundered of every thing that was of value.

Montrose generally disappointed his enemies by the rapidity of his movements; and when he heard that Argyle was following him to Strathbogie, he passed to Speyside: but the covenanters in Moray, lining the opposite banks, prevented his crossing the river, and he pitched his camp in the wood of Abernethie. Argyle made no great exertion to overtake Montrose, but quietly mustered his army at the bog of Gight, which was only twenty miles distance from Abernethie. Montrose marched through Strathspey, Badenoch, and Athole, and by a sudden counter-movement, again burst upon Angus. He seized the house of Dun, where the people of the town of Montrose had deposited their valuables, and got possession of the four pieces of brass cannon, formerly belonging to the marquis of Huntly, and which he had taken from him at the bridge of Dee, when fighting for the covenant.

Argyle with his horse went to Forres to attend the committee, and thence to Inverness, which he ordered to be garrisoned by two regiments of foot. He re-

2 D 2

turned:

\* Spalding says, "The first night they drank out all the *stale* ale in Old Aberdeen, and lived upon *wort* thereafter."—Vol. ii. p. 245.

turned to Badenoch, where he met his foot army, and then continued the pursuit of Montrose through Athole, Angus, and Mearns. Those whom Montrose had spared as being loyalists, were now pillaged as enemies to the covenanters; thus the whole country was alternately wasted and destroyed by the contending parties.

The committee at Aberdeen dreaded another calamitous visit from Montrose, and ordered all the horsemen in the district to rendezvous at the bridge of Dee on the 14th of October; but so great was the terror of his arms, that few attended. Major-general Ramsay posted the horse under his immediate command at the bridge of Dee, where he was joined by three troops under lord Gordon, and one troop under Keith, brother to the earl Marischal; and, on the 15th, they were farther reinforced by eight troops under the command of colonel Hamilton. The town's people were charged by tuck of drum to form foot companies, and join the rendezvous; but they had not forgot their last trial of prowess with the marquis's soldiers, and not a man would rise.

Montrose crossed the Dee at the mills of Drum, on the 17th, and marched again to Strathbogie, pillaging and burning wherever he went, so that the country presented nothing but the smoking ruins of gentlemen's houses, and peasant's cottages. Argyle again entered Aberdeen on the 18th, with two thousand foot and seven troops of horse; to which were added, the fourteen troops under major-general Ramsay. He remained until the 25th, when he marched to Kintore, and next day to Inverury, where he staid all night, and  
" heard

"heard devotion." The covenanters were so extremely fond of preaching, that they would rather have lost a battle than a sermon. Montrose, in the meantime, took up an advantageous position in the wood of Fyvie; but his army, by desertion, and the absence of the Irish, was reduced to eighteen hundred men. Argyle marched from Inverury (28th October), to Fyvie, in the expectation of capturing Montrose and his little army; but they so bravely defended themselves for three days, and killed so many of Argyle's men, that he removed his camp to Crichtie, and permitted them to escape. Argyle followed the day after, and again overtook Montrose in Strathbogie, where some hot skirmishing ensued; but he now eluded all pursuit, by retiring to the mountains.

Argyle having abandoned the pursuit of Montrose for the present, directed his attention to other objects. He called a committee at Turriff on the 18th November, which made a requisition of new levies from the counties of Aberdeen and Banff. On the 19th, he returned to the town of Aberdeen to attend the provincial assembly of the *Kirk*; for religion and war were then the grand objects which engrossed the attention of every description of men; and on the 21st, he set off for Edinburgh, to give an account of his military exploits, with which the estates were not much satisfied. His army, with the exception of a thousand which had returned home, was quartered in Aberdeen, Ellon, and Deer; in Banff, and in Morayshire. The allowance to each foot soldier was, two pecks of meal,

and twelve shillings weekly, with house-room, coal, and candle. To each trooper, sixteen shillings per week, and a peck of oats per day, with fodder for his horse.

When Argyle departed, the earl Marischal, the lords Fraser and Crichton, with other barons, and the provost of Aberdeen, continued the sittings of the committee until January, 1645; and it was ordered by the estates, that Aberdeen should be fortified. The sufferers, in the cause of the covenant, were authorised by the committee to indemnify themselves for their losses, from the lands, rents, and fishings of the papists, and they accordingly took possession of every thing belonging to these unfortunate men, which a broad interpretation of this act could possibly comprehend.

The active genius of Montrose still pursued objects of conquest or destruction. He penetrated into Argyleshire, and being again joined by the Irish and the M'Donalds of the Isles, waged a destructive war†. This ferocious chief, whom historians of a certain class have unjustly praised, was no more than a merciless barbarian, who embittered the calamities of his country by every species of cruelty. The rectitude of his political principles may admit a diversity of opinion; his gallantry is unquestionable, and his exploits are brilliant; but the perpetration of such undistinguished massacre and wanton conflagration as he at that time committed in Breadalbin, Argyle, and Lorn, must for ever stamp  
him.

\* Laing, Spalding, &c..



him as a detestable and atrocious scourge, who despised the glory of war, for the gratification of private revenge. For nearly three months, he wasted these unhappy districts with fire and sword, in the true spirit of Vandalism, and then marched towards Inverness.

Argyle advanced to Inverlochy, with about three thousand men, where he was surprised and attacked by Montrose, on the 2d of February, 1645. The battle commenced with the rising of the sun; and the conduct of the chieftains indicated their different characters. Montrose everywhere animated his men by his presence; while the cowardly Argyle retired from the field, and in a galley sought safety, or avoided danger, on the smooth surface of the lake. Fifteen hundred of the Campbells were destroyed, and the Highlands in every direction were open to the conquerors.

When the estates heard of this disaster, they ordered major-general Baillie to levy a new army to oppose Montrose, who retraced his steps to Inverness, with incredible diligence. But the town was fortified and garrisoned by two veteran regiments; and his irregular troops could neither besiege nor assault it. When he descended into Moray, he ordered every man from sixteen to sixty, to join his standard; and those who refused, or were hostile to his cause, suffered the indiscriminate devastation of their houses and lands. The lord Gordon, who had been disgusted with the estates, and the chief of the Grants, now joined him at Elgin, with their adherents. Elgin, Cullen, and Banff, were abandoned to the soldiers; and the house of the earl of Findlater was only saved from the flames by a heavy

heavy ransom. It is painful to pursue the bloody footsteps of this conqueror, who forgot the dignity of his species, and trampled on every law of humanity. He proceeded to Turriff; and the city of Aberdeen trembled. The council sent four commissioners to deprecate his wrath, "who, with great humility, pitifully declared to his honour, the manifold miseries daily befalling the town of Aberdeen, coming from one side and from another, and no burgh within Scotland so heavily distressed as that town from time to time, since the beginning of thir troubles, as was well known unto himself; and now fearing that he and his army were coming to Aberdeen, declared the hail people, man and woman, through plain fear of the Irishes, was fleeing away, if his honour did not give them assurance of safety and protection\*."

Pity or remorse seemed to have seized his soul, and he forbade them to be afraid; for his foot, which included the Irish, should not be permitted to approach nearer to the town than eight miles. On the 9th of March, major Nathaniel Gordon came to Aberdeen from Montrose's army, with a few troops of horse; and the keys of the kirks, ports, and the tolbooth, were delivered to him as the emblems of submission. He took eighteen hundred musquets, pikes, &c. at Torrie, which had been left under the guard of the late captain Keith's troop, of whom several were killed, and some taken prisoners. Major Gordon placed sentinels in the town, and  
sent

\* Spalding, vol. ii. p. 278,

sent patrols as far as Cowie to prevent a surprise from the south. Montrose advanced to Inverury and Kintore, where he issued an order, commanding all the men in the shire to meet him at Inverury on the 15th of March, in their best arms, and mounted on their best horses, under pain of fire and sword.

Major Gordon, who had joined the camp on the 12th, returned again to Aberdeen, with about eighty gentlemen on horseback. They rested in fancied security, and indulged in merriment, neglecting the ordinary precautions of war; and were surprised on the night of the 15th, by major Hurry, and a detachment of horse and foot from Baillie's army. Several of the loyalists were killed, and their horses were carried off by Hurry's party, which hastily retreated next morning.

Although Montrose did not give up the town to be pillaged, yet, by his orders, major M'Donald exacted a contribution in cloth, gold and silver lace, &c. to the amount of L.10,000, which the community became bound to pay to the merchants, from whom it had been taken, by a general tax on the people. Montrose moved his camp from Kintore to Durris, where he was joined by M'Donald, and his regiment of Irish. He burned the houses, and laid waste the lands. From Durris he proceeded to Stonehaven on the 19th of March. He lodged in the house of James Clark, the provost; and lord Gordon, with the army, was quartered in Cowie, and in the surrounding country. Montrose wrote a letter to earl Marischal, who had taken refuge in Dunnottar Castle with sixteen covenanting ministers, requesting

questing him to support the royal cause ; but the earl, counselled by Andrew Cant, it is said, refused to comply, answering, that he never would lift his arm against his country. The cruel policy of those times had introduced the maxim, that ‘ he who is not for us, must be ‘ against us ;’ and Montrose acted on this principle with no common zeal. He proceeded to the work of destruction with his usual vigour. The villages of Stonehaven and Cowie were committed to the flames (21st March), with the exception of James Clark’s house, where Montrose himself had been lodged. Spalding feelingly describes this distressing scene. “ The people,” he says, “ came out, men, women, “ and children at their feet, and children in their “ arms, crying, howling, and weeping, praying the “ earl for God’s cause, to save them from this fire how “ soon it was kindled ; but thir poor people gat no “ answer, nor knew they where to go with their chil- “ dren. Lamentable to see !\* ” The boats of the fishers were also burned, and the lands of Dunnottar received a terrible visitation. The house of Fetteresso was set on fire, and its “ pleasant park ;” of which, some trees burned, others being green, would not burn : “ but the hart, the hind, the deer, and “ the roe, skirled at the sight of fire, but they were “ all tane and slain. The horses, mares, oxen, and “ kine, were all likewise killed, and the haill baronies “ of Dunnottar and Fetteresso utterly spoilzied, plun- “ dered and undone.”

Montrose continued his march southwards. He re-  
mained

remained four days at Fettercairn, where his horse skirmished with those of major-general Hurry; and, on the 25th, he advanced to Brechin, which he pillaged, and partly burned. He proceeded through Angus, illuminating his course by the flames he raised. Baillie's army, six thousand strong, now hung upon his flanks and rear, and made daily attacks; but the covenanters were cautious from misfortune: and, like the retreating lion, Montrose presented a determined front that kept his enemies at bay.

Montrose made an attack on the town of Dundee, but was surprised by Baillie, and obliged to abandon the assault. He conducted his retreat to the mountains of Glenesk, in the face of a vastly superior force, and with admirable skill. His army was now greatly reduced by the defection of lord Lewis Gordon and his followers, who were called home by his father, the marquis of Huntly. The estates ordered Hurry to march to Aberdeen with two regiments of foot, and one of horse, in pursuit of lord Lewis Gordon; and general Baillie retired to Perth with the remainder of the army, to watch the progress of Montrose, who advanced to the neighbourhood of that town.

After remaining some time in Aberdeen, Hurry went in search of lord Gordon, who prudently avoided him until he could form a junction with Montrose, who returned across the mountains to support him, and they met in Cromar. The loyalists had only fifteen hundred foot, and two hundred and fifty horse, but they were brave, and inured to war. Montrose now went in quest of Hurry, who crossed the Spey, and hastened  
his

his march to Inverness, where he arrived with difficulty\*. The levies from Moray, Sutherland, and Caithness, had been ordered by the estates to assemble at Inverness; and Hurry being reinforced by them and the garrison, mustered four thousand men.

Baillie was rapidly advancing in the rear of Montrose, who could neither retreat, nor proceed with safety. He therefore resolved to try the fate of a battle once more, and made preparations to give Hurry a warm reception. Montrose's little army was drawn up at the village of Aldern, with all the science of Epaminondas, and its incredible exertions on the day of battle (9th May), secured the victory. Three thousand of the enemy were killed in the field†; but the glory of the conquerors was stained by their cruelty and devastation‡.

The battle of Alford was the next brilliant action that adorned the military career of this valiant chieftain. The earl of Lindsay had drawn off the veteran troops of Baillie's army, who was constrained to fight through the importunities of the nobles in his camp, in opposition to his own better judgment. Nearly the whole of Baillie's infantry was cut to pieces; but Montrose sustained an irreparable loss in the death of the brave lord Gordon, who was killed by a musquet-shot while pursuing the enemy's horse.

The talents of Argyle, who was better qualified for a statesman than a military commander, supported the drooping spirits of the estates, and he infused his own energy

\* Monteith's History of the Troubles of Scotland, p. 205.

† Ibid. p. 207.

‡ Laing, vol. i. p. 296.

energy into their councils. The parliament removed to Stirling (8th July, 1645), and thence to Perth, to avoid the ravages of the plague; and while the country was ready to sink under the accumulated pressure of war and pestilence, an order was issued, commanding all the nobility and gentry to take up arms under pain of treason; and flight or emigration was severely prohibited. Montrose was no less active, and his recent victories attracted numerous reinforcements. He was joined at Fordoun in Mearns-shire, by lord Aboyn; and, in Angus, by the heads of several clans, with their adherents; and altogether, his army was five thousand strong. He suddenly emerged from the Grampian mountains, and threatened Perth, when the parliament was sitting, and where their forces were entrenched. They refused to give him battle, and he continued his march to the south-west of Scotland, everywhere marking his progress by bloodshed and devastation. He crossed the Forth above Stirling, and pitched his camp at Kilsyth, where he fought one of his most celebrated battles (15th of August). Of six thousand covenanters who were engaged on that day, nearly five thousand were slain: and this signal defeat at once palsied the exertions of the estates, and opened the whole country to the conqueror.

The fortune of war is fluctuating, and the power of Montrose was transient. His maxims in the council, and his practice in the field, were alike detestable; and as he possessed not the affections of the people, his authority was limited to the confines of his camp\*.

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 301.

The country did not rise to recruit his diminished army, when deserted by the Gordons and M'Donalds. But success had inspired him with confidence, and he boldly marched to the borders, to meet expected reinforcements from England.

When the Scottish army in England received information of the fatal battle of Kilsyth, David Leslie, with four thousand cavalry, returned rapidly to Berwick; and while reviewing his troops on Glads-moor in Lothian, it was reported to him that Montrose was lying carelessly in Ettrick forest. He suddenly reversed his march, and, under cover of night, approached Selkirk unperceived, where he surprised the royalists in the adjacent woods of Philiphaugh, on the 13th of September. In this emergency, all that could be done by brave men was achieved; but superior numbers, ably directed by an experienced officer, overcame their best efforts, and one thousand royalists were killed on the spot. The Irish were massacred as a banditti unworthy of any quarter, and Montrose's army was thus entirely dispersed.

Montrose himself had escaped to Peebles, where he collected two hundred of his horse, with which he fled across the Forth and the Tay, and took shelter in the wilds of Athol. He expected to be supported by Huntly, who had issued from his concealment, about this time, and for that purpose, traversed the Grampians. Aboyn joined him in Mar, with about five hundred horse and foot; but Huntly resented former injuries, and never cordially co-operated with Montrose, who  
again



again returned into Athol, and occasionally threatened the adjoining districts.

The affairs of the royalists were now nearly desperate. Montrose, by his defeat at Philiphaugh, had lost the reputation of being invincible; and Huntly refused to march beyond the limits of his government. But Montrose, who was ever indefatigable, penetrated in the depth of winter with a small force to Strathbogie, to obtain an interview with Huntly, and, if possible, to stimulate his efforts in the royal cause. Their private differences were laid aside from a sense of common danger, and a plan of operations was arranged.

The estates were equally active, and new levies were raised to garrison the principal towns, and to form an army in the field. Montrose's horse were stationed in the county of the Mearns, under Lindsay, earl of Crawford, and they retired in confusion on the advance of the forces of the parliament under colonel Henry Barclay, who arrived in Aberdeen in January, 1546\*.

Crawford passed through Kintore into Buchan, burned Fraserburgh, and then marched to Banff. His quarters there, were beaten up by colonel David Barclay of Ury, who had the command of the Sutherland men, and many of the Irish were killed.

Montrose had undertaken the siege of Inverness, and Huntly was employed in reducing several castles in Morayshire. But in April, major-general Middleton was sent to Aberdeen to take the command of the

\* MS. Gordon's Genealogy of the House of Sutherland.

parliament's army. In May, he advanced northwards, having left the defence of Aberdeen to lieutenant-colonel Montgomery, with one regiment of horse, and another of foot; and by rapid marches, he arrived on the 9th at Inverness. Montrose had previously crossed the river Ness; but colonel Barclay, passing at a ford above the town, gallantly charged him with a regiment of horse, and being ably supported by Middleton, entirely defeated his army. Montrose lost his baggage, with two pieces of cannon, and a number of his men were killed\*.

Whilst Middleton and Barclay were at Inverness, the marquis of Huntly and lord Aboyn assembled their vassals at Inverury, with the intention of attacking Aberdeen. Montgomery anticipated them by an assault on their quarters at Kintore (13th May), which proved fruitless, and he was so hotly pursued that he regained the town with difficulty. The marquis, by a rapid march, arrived at Aberdeen on the 14th, by twelve o'clock, noon, with his whole army, which he drew up on a heath about half a mile northwards of the loch. He instantly assaulted the town at different points. The garrison bravely repulsed two separate attacks; but a part of the town, taking fire, and a third and more furious assault being made with fresh troops under lord Aboyn, Montgomery was obliged to give way. His horse swam the river, and escaped to Torry; but the foot, under colonel Henry Barclay, retired within the tolbooth, and the

\* MS. Gordon's Genealogy of the House of Sutherland.

the earl Marischal's and Pitfoddles' lodgings, where they surrendered as prisoners of war.

General Middleton, when in Moray, received intelligence of Huntly's success, and by rapid marches endeavoured to intercept him in his retreat to Marr, but he secured himself in the mountains of that country, and Middleton returned to Aberdeen\*.

Previously to this time, the king had arrived at the Scottish camp before Newark (5th May), having effected his escape from Oxford in disguise (27th April). He sent orders to Montrose and Huntly to cease contending. The former obeyed, and was permitted by the estates to retire from the kingdom; but the latter still stood in the attitude of defiance. Middleton having requested more forces to enable him to subdue Huntly, general Lesly was sent to Aberdeen with a detachment of horse and foot, to aid him in the reduction of that refractory chieftain, Middleton and Col. David Barclay accordingly advanced to the banks of the Spey, and successively took possession of all the strong places belonging to Huntly, who, unable to meet them in the field, sought shelter in the recesses of the mountains. This unfortunate man was afterwards seized in Strathaven, by a party of the covenanters, and carried to Edinburgh, where he was beheaded. The Macdonalds of the west highlands were next attacked and subdued; and Scotland, for a short time, enjoyed tranquillity and repose.

War and pestilence are the great scourges of man-

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kind.

\* Gordon's MS.

kind. The plague which had existed in the southern districts of Scotland for two years, broke out in Aberdeen about the 1st of June, 1647, and continued its ravages till about the end of October. The election of the magistrates this year, was held in Gilcomston, on account of the pestilence, which cut off in Aberdeen sixteen hundred of the inhabitants, and in the fishing villages of Footdee and Torry, a hundred and forty. In the winter following, the universities removed to Fraserburgh and Peterhead, where they sat during that session\*.

## CHAPTER

\* Gordon's History of the Gordons, vol. ii. p. 524.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

### CONTENTS.

[THE SCOTS DELIVER THEIR KING TO THE COMMONS OF ENGLAND—OLIVER CROMWELL—EXECUTION OF CHARLES I.—CHARLES II. ARRIVES IN SCOTLAND—DEFEATED AT WORCESTER—CROMWELL CONQUERS SCOTLAND—HIS GOVERNMENT—DEATH—AND RESTORATION OF CHARLES II.—RE-ESTABLISHES EPISCOPACY—HIS GOVERNMENT—SEVERITIES—EPISCOPAL TYRANNY—PROSCRIPTIONS—MURDERS AND MASSACRES—DEATH OF CHARLES, AND REIGN OF HIS SUCCESSOR, JAMES II.—ARBITRARY MEASURES—EXCESSIVE CRUELITIES—ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCE OF ORANGE—REVOLUTION—ABOLITION OF EPISCOPACY—THE ELECTIONS OF THE MAGISTRATES OF ABERDEEN—BISHOPS—LIST OF PROVOSTS.]

\* \* \* \*

CHARLES was a prisoner in the Scottish camp, but the English claimed him, which occasioned a dispute between the two nations. The Scots, however, knew too well the value of the prize, to part with him easily; and after a good deal of altercation, they sold him for four hundred thousand pounds sterling, of which they received the half. It would be in vain to attempt to disguise this shameful transaction by any plea of necessity, or even to offer any apology for the base conduct

duct of that parliament which ordained on the 16th January, 1647, "that, according to the agreement of  
 " their commissioners, the army should retire, and the  
 " king be left to the English, without any conditions  
 " for him, or this nation's interest in him."

The Scottish army accordingly left Newcastle with their treasure, on the 11th February, and crossed the Tweed at Kelso, where six regiments of horse were disbanded, after having taken the covenanting oath.

The king was conducted to Holdenby, where he was detained as a prisoner; and the different factions in both kingdoms were puzzled what measures to pursue in regard to him. It was the misfortune of this unhappy man, that he too firmly adhered to his religious prejudices, and at the same time was destitute of sincerity\*. He alternately intrigued with every party, with the view of finally triumphing over the whole, and re-establishing his own despotic system, as to church and state. A new sect had arisen during the eventful changes of religious opinion, which, to the disgrace of protestants, had followed in rapid succession since the abolition of the Romish doctrines; and the *Independents* had become numerous and powerful.

They

\* Charles seems to have adopted the principles of Machiavel, with whom it was a maxim, that "a prudent prince cannot, nor ought not, to keep his word, except when he can do it without injury to himself, or when the circumstances under which he contracted the engagement, still exist."—The Stuart race were all unfortunately too familiar with this despicable sort of *morality*, and, unquestionably, the duplicity of Charles cost him his life.

They were a set of fanatics who claimed a higher degree of saintship than the presbyterian labourers in the holy vineyard, or, in other words, their fervour was more warm, enthusiastic, and hypocritical. They “ rejected all ecclesiastical establishments, and would admit of no spiritual courts, no government among pastors, no interposition of the magistrate in religious concerns, no fixed encouragement annexed to any system of doctrines or opinions\*.”

Oliver Cromwell was a leader among this party, and the army had become converts. The parliament of England was composed chiefly of presbyterians. The army scorned their authority, and seized the person of the king (3d June 1647), whom cornet Joyce conducted to the rendezvous at Triplo-heath, near Cambridget. Cromwell took the command of the army, marched to St. Albans, thence to London, new modelled the parliament, and brought the king to Hampton Court. His majesty escaped from his guards (11th November), and put himself in the hands of Hammond, governor of the isle of Wight, who detained him in Carisbrooke Castle. After various unsuccessful proposals for an accommodation between the king and the parliament, it was voted (15th January, 1648), through the influence or threats of Cromwell, that all intercourse between him and them should cease†. He was no longer considered as king, and Cromwell, who was now all powerful, had doomed his destruction,

\* Hume's History of England, vol. iv. p. 366.

† Ibid. p. 411.

‡ Ibid. p. 427.

tion, it is said, at a meeting of the general officers of his army at Windsor, a few days after his escape from Hampton Court\*.

The estates of Scotland were not indifferent spectators of these transactions, and having betrayed their king, they dreaded his reconciliation with the parliament, lest he should recover his authority, and punish their perfidy†. To avert such an event, they sent commissioners to Charles to propose a treaty, and to offer their assistance towards his restoration to power. His affairs were desperate, and it is probable he would not at such a time be very scrupulous as to the *terms* of the treaty; but the commissioners requested so much, that his majesty was ashamed to comply with their demands‡. It was, however, finally settled in the isle of Wight, on the 26th December, 1647; and they engaged that an army should march into England to co-operate with his friends in that kingdom.

The parliament of Scotland accordingly ordered forces to be raised, of which they gave the command to the duke of Hamilton, who crossed the frontiers about the

\* Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, vol. v. p. 92.

† Ibid. p. 100.

‡ 'They demanded, "that such a number of *Scots*-men should be always in the court of the bed-chamber, and *all other places* about the persons of the king, and prince, and duke of York &c. That Berwick and Carlisle should be put into the hands of the *Scots*;" and some other concessions with regard to the northern counties, which trench'd so far upon the honour and interest of the *English*, that his majesty utterly refused to consent to it.'—Clarendon's History, vol. v. p. 101.



the middle of July, 1648. The violent covenanters and the clergy detesting the king as the enemy of the *Solemn League and Covenant*, threw every obstruction in the way of the levies, and prevented the necessary supplies of men and money from being forwarded to the army. Two supreme judicatures existed in the country : the one threatened the people with damnation and eternal torments, if they obeyed the mandates of parliament ; and the other, with imprisonment, banishment, and military execution, if they refused\*.

“ The people,” says Clarendon, “ were corrupted and “ governed by the infectious breath of their senseless “ clergy† ;” and their conduct on this occasion was certainly the cause of the disgrace of the national arms.

Hamilton was defeated at Preston in Lancashire, with immense slaughter, by Cromwell and Lambert, on the 18th of August, and himself taken prisoner. The Scottish nation might still have made an effort, and maintained the independence of the country ; but the church party was in arms, with Argyle, Lothian, Cassilis, and Eglinton, as their leaders. Each parish was conducted by its minister ; and the *Insurrectionists* made a tumultuary march to Edinburgh, from which they expelled the committee of estates†. The *Whig-anores*’ inroad, as this expedition was termed, gave the origin of the word *Whig*, which derives its high birth from the outrageous conduct of the Scots covenanters.

Cromwell

\* Hume, vol. iv. p. 180.

† History of the Rebellion, vol. iv. p. 109.

‡ Laing, vol. i. p. 365.

Cromwell hastened his march to Edinburgh, where, in conjunction with Argyle, he suppressed the moderate presbyterians; and the ecclesiastical authority, now paramount to the civil power, exercised unrelenting vengeance on all who had any concern in what the violent party termed *Hamilton's engagement*\*.

Cromwell was soon called to London, in consequence of the treaty of Newport, which terminating unfavourably, the king was again seized by the army, and conveyed to Hurst Castle. The parliament was unable to protect either itself or the king, for the army possessed the power, and it assumed the right to determine, the deliberations of that body. Colonel Pride, with two regiments, *purged* the house, that is to say, he expelled the whole members, excepting fifty or sixty violent independents†. The fate of the king was soon determined. He was removed to Windsor on the 23d December. His trial commenced before a *High Court of Justice* on the 20th, and was finished on the 27th of January, 1649. He was condemned, as previously resolved, and executed on the 30th of January, in the forty-ninth year of his age, after a troublesome reign of thirty-three years, ten months, and three days.

From that time, to the present day, two opinions have existed in the nation, as to this awful event. One party have deemed Charles a martyr, and have considered his execution as *murder*.—That he suffered from an usurped power is indisputable, and perhaps his death was unnecessary. On the other side it has been said, that

\* Hume, vol. iv. p. 436.

† Ibid. p. 439.

that his conduct drew down upon him the just vengeance of an injured people, and that the peace of the country could not be secured while he lived. His engagement with the Scots to renew the civil war, at the same time that he was treating for peace with the English parliament, affords too strong proof of his want of sincerity, and demonstrates sufficiently that he was not guided in his public conduct by those strict principles of integrity which ought to regulate the transactions of kings, as well as those of their subjects. But the morality of nations is often as questionable as that of kings; and when the contention of parties is carried to an extremity, law is set aside, and the passions of men become the only rule of their conduct. In such cases, the weak may expect to suffer the aggressions of the strong, as there is no court of equity to appeal to, and force is the sole arbiter of differences, which are generally terminated, not by logical deduction, but by the soldier in the field, and the executioner on the scaffold.

The majority of the Scottish nation beheld the execution of their native prince with abhorrence. They ascribed his death to the surrender of his person, and wished to expiate the crime by the restoration of his son. They still, however, adhered to the covenant; and, under conditions, Charles II. was proclaimed sovereign of the three kingdoms. But he acted disingenuously, and countenanced Montrose in a hostile invasion of that country which proposed to place him on the throne of his ancestors. Montrose was defeated, taken prisoner, and beheaded. The duplicity

of Charles was made apparent ; but the Scots, more faithful to their engagements than he was, still agreed to receive him\*. He arrived at the mouth of the Spey on the 23d of June, 1650, but was not permitted to land, until he had subscribed and sworn to the covenant. The clergy ruled the state, and regulated the conduct of the king. He endeavoured to conform to their prayers and fasts, and even condescended to hear their invectives against his father and mother. Their fanatical austerity occasionally extorted from him a smile of contempt. He wished to deceive, but was too inexperienced to impose upon those who were themselves perfect masters of hypocrisy, and they placed no confidence in his profession†.

The committee of estates ordered a general levy throughout the kingdom ; and a strong army was assembled at Edinburgh under the command of Lesly. Cromwell crossed the Tweed on the 22d of July, and marched to the capital without opposition. He was unable either to force the trenches of the Scots, or to provoke them to a general battle, and the scarcity of provisions compelled him to retreat to Dunbar, whither he was pursued and harrassed. His situation being desperate, he was prepared to embark his foot, and break through to Berwick with his horse. But the imprudence of the Scots deprived them of a victory that might have been bloodless. The experienced Lesly knew the advantages of his situation ; but the caution  
of

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 407.

† Ibid. p. 409.

of the general was overbalanced by the folly and madness of the clergy. They pretended revelations from heaven that promised certain victory to their army of saints; and the frenzy of the preachers overpowered the better judgment of the commander, who was forced to abandon a strong position, and to offer battle to the enemy on the plain\*. The illusions of these wretched men, ruined their cause; and on the 3d of September, the Scottish army sustained a total defeat: three thousand were put to the sword, and nine thousand made prisoners, with their colours, artillery, and baggage. The clergy found that Cromwell was as good a saint as any of them, and that beside the blessing of God, he derived some advantage from the skilful use of powder and lead.

Lesly retreated with the remains of his force to Stirling. A sense of common danger for a time united all parties, and they performed the useless ceremony of crowning the king at Scone. But Cromwell was in possession of the capital, and pushed his success with great vigour. He subdued, during winter, the whole country from the Forth to the Clyde. A new army was embodied by the royalists at Stirling, and Overton crossed into Fife to intercept its supplies. A detachment of the Scots was sent to oppose him, but they were defeated with the loss of two thousand killed, and twelve hundred prisoners. Cromwell followed Overton with the remainder of his army, and advanced to Perth, of which he took possession. Charles,

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 415.

no longer safe in Scotland, determined to penetrate into England, and on the 6th August, 1651, he entered Carlisle with sixteen thousand men. Cromwell pursued the king, and overtook him at Worcester, where his army was entirely destroyed, and Charles escaped to France, after suffering innumerable hardships\*.

General Monk, with seven thousand men, was left in Scotland to subdue the country, and this paltry force was adequate to the object. The places of strength surrendered almost without resistance. Dundee was taken by storm. St. Andrew's, Montrose, and Aberdeen, opened their gates to the conqueror. The republic boasted, that it had accomplished what neither the Romans, nor its own Edwards and Henrys, could achieve; and Scotland was incorporated into one commonwealth with England. Eight commissioners were appointed by the commons at Westminster, to govern the country. General Monk, as one of these, sent five colonels to regenerate the King's College of Aberdeen. They were rough reformers, and with little ceremony displaced the obnoxious professors. Monk threatened the General Assembly, and proscribed the covenant and religious oaths; he likewise prohibited civil judges from executing the anathemas of the church, and in fact, he rescued the country from the thralldom of clerical tyranny†.

On the 20th of April, 1653, Cromwell dismissed that parliament with disgrace, which had been the accomplice

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 416, *et. seq.*

† See Appendix, No. I, p. 25.

‡ Skinner, vol. ii. p. 429.

complice of his crimes ; and in July, lieutenant-colonel Cotterel discharged the General Assembly at Edinburgh. It may be said, that he *drummed* them out of the town ; for he conveyed the members through the West Port by a guard of soldiers, and after a severe reprimand, he ordered, that not three of them should meet together\*.

Cromwell was proclaimed lord Protector, in December, 1653 ; and in April next, he passed “ an act of “ grace and pardon ” to the people of Scotland. But there were many excepted, and heavy fines were imposed on others, to the amount of £162,200 sterling. During the Cromwellian usurpation, the country, though ruled by a rod of iron, enjoyed peace, and the people were relieved from the despotism of the church, which was more oppressive and intolerant than the civil tyranny of preceding ages.

The government of the kingdom was committed to a council of state, consisting of nine members. Its powers were extensive, and comprehended the administration of civil affairs—the revenue—the exchequer—the customs—the excise—the nomination of inferior judges, sheriffs, commissaries, justices of the peace—and its sanction was also requisite to entitle the clergy to the fruits of their benefices. But this council, in the exercise of its powers, was subordinate, and responsible to Cromwell and his council of England†.

A force of only nine thousand men, divided into

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\* Skinner, vol. ii. p. 451.

† Laing, vol. i. p. 440.

twenty-eight garrisons, was deemed sufficient to secure the subjection of Scotland. The pay of the military was, to a trooper, 2s. 6d., and to a common soldier, 1s. per day. The expenditure of the government exceeded the revenue: the former, for the civil and military establishment, amounted to £286,458; and the latter produced no more than £143,642; so that the balance was defrayed by remittances from England\*. If we are to estimate the *value* of Cromwell's conquest by the money it cost England, he certainly had a bad bargain: and if the Scots could not defeat him by their valour, yet they drained his finances by their poverty, which was not only a consolation to the vanquished, but a real benefit to their country.

Agriculture was languid; for the tenure of the farmer was short or precarious, and he did little to ameliorate the sterility of the soil. The growth of wheat was confined to the southern counties, and the produce of an acre scarcely amounted to sixteen bushels, or four bolls. Barley was the general crop; and artificial grasses, now so profitable to the agriculturist, were altogether unknown.

Manufactures were in their infancy, and the fabrics made of wool or flax were of a coarse texture; yet the latter were so considerable, as to become the staple commodity of the country. The commerce of exchange with foreign nations, was principally conducted by Scotsmen resident abroad, who annually repaired to an extensive fair at St. Andrew's, with the produce

\* Laing, vol. i. p. 445.



dace of the continent. Corn, wool, lead, salt, fish, yarn and linen, and coarse woollen, formed the exports of the country; and its imports were, the finer sorts of manufactures, with the luxuries of life. French wines were so abundant, that Cromwell, on taking possession of Leith, seized three thousand tons. At Campvere, the Scottish merchants enjoyed peculiar privileges; and it was the place of their chief resort. A ship from Aberdeen, destined to Holland, and loaded with Aberdeen goods, was captured by an Irish frigate, anno 1644, and the cargo was valued at 200,000 marks\*.

As to religion during this period, every man was allowed to cant and pray as he pleased, and the clergy were restrained from engendering dangerous intrigues. The vigorous arm of Cromwell was suspended over them like the sword of Dionysius, and their restless spirits were curbed or subdued by the terror of his vengeance. The society of quakers arose in this age of enthusiastic fervour. Their sighing and groaning, and incoherent ejaculations, were merely emblematical of the sufferings of mankind; but their calm forbearance, their love of peace, and inoffensive manners, constituted the severest satire on the turbulence of churchmen. If the meek virtues of this sect, which disclaims every sentiment of ambition, are contrasted with the intolerant, persecuting, and aspiring temper of the national clergy, whether episcopalian or presbyterian, it will be found,

\* Spalding, vol. ii. p. 226.

found, that the one bore a resemblance to the primitive Christians, while the others were like the fabled demons of discord.

Cromwell died on the 3d of September, 1658, and was succeeded in the protectorship by his son Richard, who possessed none of his father's abilities. No hereditary sovereign did more for the prosperity of England than Cromwell. He caused his laws to be respected at home; and abroad, he raised the military and naval glory of the nation. But within the short space of one year after his death, the fabric he had reared, was dissolved, and the country was subjected to military controul. That revolutionary spirit, however, which had embroiled the country in a civil war of twenty years, had subsided into a sincere desire for the return of peace, and of good government. The restoration of Charles II. was projected and executed by general Monk, whose dark politics had given him the ascendancy both in the parliament and in the army. Charles accordingly was invited to fill the throne of his forefathers; and on the 25th of May, 1660, he arrived at Dover, where he was cordially received and embraced by Monk. On the 29th May, being his birth-day, he made his public entry into London, amidst the acclamations of the people.

The general joy diffused among all ranks by the restoration of the lawful sovereign, gave a happy presage of future tranquillity. But the weakness of the monarch, and his easy compliance with the pernicious advice of his counsellors, soon excited discontent in the nation.

nation, and the Scottish government gradually degenerated into a cruel despotism\*.

Charles, adopting the absurd maxims of his father, thought that monarchy and prelacy were inseparably connected in their nature and constitution; and by a pliancy of temper, or a facility in tergiversation, he found it not difficult to forget his subscription of the covenant. But his abjuration of the protestant faith when he repaired to the treaty of the Pyrenees†, sufficiently evinces his flexibility in religious matters, and demonstrates that, like Machiavel, he considered expediency to be the only rule for the conduct of kings. In correspondence with his principles, therefore, he easily yielded to the suggestions of the bigotted Clarendon, the artful Lauderdale, and the treacherous Sharp; and pursued measures for the re-establishment of episcopacy in Scotland, to which there could have been no objection, if it had been agreeable to the people. But as the presbyterian system was already established by law, and Charles had sworn to maintain it, there could be no necessity for a change, especially as it was well known, that "episcopacy was recommended by none but those who solicited preferment‡."

From

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 2.

† It is not positively clear, so as not to admit of controversy, that Charles abjured the protestant religion at this time; but it is more than insinuated by Clarendon (vol. vi. p. 687-9), and considering his majesty's indifference in such matters, it is not improbable, that he may have reconciled himself to the Romish church, in order to obtain the aid of the catholic princes of Europe.

‡ Laing, vol. ii. p. 18.

From the experience of our own times, we are fully assured that presbyterianism admits of as much submission to the ruling powers, as any other system whatever. But it was poor, and afforded no scope for the ambition of designing churchmen. The virtue of Sharp, if ever he possessed any, was corrupted by the promise of the rich archbishoprick of St. Andrew's; and although he was the accredited agent of the covenanters, he deserted their cause, and became their bitterest enemy.—The synod of Aberdeen early distinguished itself by a humble address to his majesty's high commission, and the high court of parliament, in favour of episcopacy, dated at King's College the 18th April, 1661, in which they strongly reprobate their own former conduct, and among a long catalogue of self-accusations, they confess their "sinful silence in not preaching absolutely against the usurpers." During the Cromwellian government, the "sinful silence" of the clergy, indeed, may be fairly ascribed to their dread of punishment, and not to any willing dereliction of those principles by which they had so often and so cruelly embroiled the country. But the *rescissory* act \* had abolished all the laws which had been passed since the year 1633, and the covenant, with all the safeguards of presbytery, were thus virtually repealed.

The council of Scotland issued a proclamation intimating "his majesty's pleasure to restore the government of the church by archbishops and bishops, as  
" it

\* Passed the 28th of March, 1661.

" it stood settled in the year 1637 ;" and in the next session of parliament, which sat down on the 8th of May, 1662, the restoration of episcopacy was confirmed. Four bishops were consecrated in London, in the same manner as had been adopted in 1610, and " episcopacy was again made the legal church-establishment in Scotland, after a tumultuous interruption of twenty-four years\*."

The *Solemn League and Covenant* had been burned in London by the hands of the hangman ; and the parliament of Scotland passed an act requiring all persons in office to sign a declaration, repudiating the covenants as unlawful oaths. " No wonder," says Mr. Skinner†, " that both nations should join together in " testifying their abhorrence of that hypocritical bond " of iniquity ;" but to a disinterested spectator, it seems strange, that those clergy who had voluntarily subscribed and sworn to the covenants, should with so much facility, have retracted their engagements, and belied their oaths. That there were many hypocrites in both kingdoms, there can be little doubt ; but the episcopalians possessed no claim to superior integrity, and their great idol, Dr. Sharp, was one of the most unprincipled men of the age in which he lived.

With the establishment of episcopacy, persecution commenced. Three hundred and fifty clergymen, principally in the western counties, were ejected from their livings, and with their numerous families, thrown destitute

\* Skinner, vol. ii. p. 457.

† Ibid. p. 459.

destitute upon the world\*. The vacant benefices, however, were soon supplied by the most worthless of the clerical order, from different parts of the kingdom. But the dissolute lives of the new incumbents disgusted the people, who, indignant at the unnecessary change, followed their former pastors, and listened to their spiritual admonitions in the open fields. Conventicles were held, and the severities of the government were augmented in proportion to the increase of the *separatists*. Parliament passed an act (1669), against disobedience of ecclesiastical authority, or defection from the church. The clergy were punishable as seditious, if they dared to preach; landholders forfeited a fourth part of their rents; tenants and citizens a fourth part of their property, and the freedom of their corporations; and all were subjected, besides, to whatever corporal punishment the privy council might inflict, if they either separated, or were even absent from their parish church. Thus the wretched ministers of Charles II. exercised a tyranny over the consciences of men more intolerable than the despotism of the Romish church, and, at that period, doubly severe, as the sufferers had enjoyed some portion of liberty during the government of the protector.

Of all the intolerant churchmen who at this time disgraced the religion they professed, archbishop Sharp was the most violent. He procured the establishment of a court of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, consisting of  
nine

\* Hume, vol. v. p. 64.

† Laing, vol. ii. p. 27.

nine prelates, and thirty-five commissioners; but a quorum was constituted by a bishop, with four assistants. An ambulatory court emanated from this execrable tribunal, and all the horrors of the inquisition were introduced. Its proceedings comprised neither accusation, evidence, nor defence: but artful interrogatories entrapped the victims, and imprisonment, penalties, or corporal punishments, were vindictively inflicted\*. The government, no less inexorable than the church, abandoned the western counties to military execution. The clergy were the accusers; and the soldiers, the judges and executioners; and neither the poor nor the rich, if deemed refractory, were exempted from the vengeance of *Church and State*—a two-headed monster, which for years devoured the country by a cruel and desolating persecution†.

The sufferings of the presbyterians, whose only crime was their refusal to embrace the ceremonies of episcopacy, were past endurance; and they rose in arms to vindicate their inalienable rights. But they were defeated on the Pentland-hills, the 28th November, 1666, and those concerned in the insurrection were pursued with unrelenting fury. The prelates indulged their savage revenge by torture and executions. Burnet, archbishop of Glasgow, proposed an indiscriminate massacre of those who refused to abjure the covenant; but Sharp, more refined in his cruelty, adopted slower means of tormenting. Boots of iron, within which the legs were compressed with wedges,

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were

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 34.

† Ibid. p. 35.

were the common instruments of torture\*. The clergy, who ought to have preached forgiveness and humanity, encouraged and promoted these deeds of barbarism. But how painful soever it may be to think, that the ministers of peace should have thus become the scourge of the people, yet it is consolatory to the pious Christian to know, that such measures are repugnant to the spirit of the gospel, and that they proceeded from a few only of the most abandoned of mankind. The ministers of Charles were the worst characters in the nation, and they were influenced by the prelates, who "were mostly apostates from the presbyterian church; indifferent to religion; ambitious and intent on the acquisition of power, which they deemed insecure and precarious, unless severities were daily multiplied for their preservation†."

The common feelings of mankind occasionally form a barrier to extreme wickedness; and to appease the people, it was found necessary to relax the reins of government. A milder administration succeeded the fierce system of Sharp, who was ordered to retire to his diocese, and his associates were removed from power. The union of the two sects was attempted, and high church made some concessions to their presbyterian opponents; but the bigotry of the latter, or their antipathy to episcopal government, prevented a reconciliation of parties, which were only separated by unimportant distinctions.

Conventicles in the open fields continued to be still the

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 41.

† Ibid. p. 45.



the favourite resort of the people ; and as they were held in defiance of the law, and deemed dangerous to the state, severe enactments were passed against the preachers and their hearers. Confiscation and death were reserved for the former : double fines, and the penalties of sedition for the latter\*. But laws which are written in blood, can only provoke more determined opposition ; and the people repaired to the conventicles with arms for their defence†. The duke of Lauderdale (1672), was prime minister in Scotland. His violence and rapacity were unbounded ; and persecution was a fruitful source of emolument to himself and his favourites. The penalties and compositions extorted for attending conventicles, were enormous. Nineteen hundred pounds sterling were exacted by the justice-general in one week. Two gentlemen compounded for fifteen hundred pounds : the one a school-boy ; and the other, for his wife's attendance at a conventicle-meeting. Thirty thousand pounds were imposed on ten gentlemen in Renfrewshire. The penalties in particular districts were *farmed out* ; and the estates of those who fled, were plundered and wasted. The trade of the kingdom was no less oppressed by heavy duties and monopolies, which Lauderdale converted to his own use, or alienated in grants to his supporters‡. The courts of justice were corrupt ; and bribery, favour, and partial judgments, prevailed beyond all former precedent, even in the worst times of our most despotic monarchs.

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\* Hume, Chap. LXVI.

† Laing, vol. ii. p. 56.

‡ Ibid. p. 60.

It is painful to trace the history of Scotland during this gloomy period, and needless to enumerate the various acts of oppression by which the country was harassed. But it would be improper to omit a species of persecution, under the title of *Letters of intercommuning*, which was resorted to, as the means of embracing the most extensive ramifications of presbyterianism. By this writ, delinquents were interdicted from the common intercourse of social life; and all, who by any means relieved their wants, or even conversed, or held any communication with them, were deemed equally criminal. But the cruel policy of this measure defeated the object of its contrivers, as it diffused the guilt of the refractory through a thousand channels, which were opened up by the ties of consanguinity, and all the finer feelings of the human heart.

Conventicles were held in morasses, in woods, or on mountains; and the danger that attended them, increased the enthusiasm of the members, who often repelled force by force. Their contests with the military, during six years, were frequent and bloody; but it was a meritorious struggle, sanctioned by every law in nature. It was the assertion of the imprescriptible rights of men against the despotism of an unprincipled, vindictive, and tyrannic government, which even courted resistance, that it might inflict the pains of rebellion\*.

Archbishop Sharp was murdered on Magus-moor, on the 3d of May, 1679, by nine intercommuned fugitives.

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 80.

fugitives. The resentment of government blindly implicated the whole body of presbyterians in this transaction; and armed field conventicles were declared to be treason. An insurrection took place at Rutherglen, which was only suppressed by an army of ten thousand men at Bothwell bridge, under the command of Monmouth, the natural son of the king. Four hundred were killed in the field, and twelve hundred prisoners were confined in the church-yard of the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, where, exposed to the inclemency of the season, they were detained five months. Fines, exactions, and forfeitures, constituted a provision for the army, and a remuneration to the servants of the crown, which quickened their diligence in the execution of the abominable acts of the government. The presence of the duke of York did not mitigate, but rather increased the sufferings of the people. His severe administration exceeded that of Lauderdale; and legal murders were greatly multiplied. The innocent were ensnared by insidious questions, that were calculated to circumvent the most cautious, and from the privy council, the unhappy victims of suspicion were sent to the court of justiciary, and thence to the place of execution\*. It is said, that the duke assisted personally in the infliction of torture†; but it is certain, that his disposition was cruel, haughty, inflexible, and that his natural severity was heightened by the most gross bigotry. His administration was stained with blood, and

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blackened.

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 102.

† Woodrow, vol. ii. p. 164.

blackened by every species of cruelty which the ingenuity of his minions could suggest. Parliament, however, was still sufficiently obsequious, and an act was passed (anno 1681), in favour of the duke's succession to the throne, declaring, "that no difference  
" of religion, or act of parliament, can alter or divert  
" the right of succession, and lineal descent of the  
" crown to the nearest and lawful heir\*." The divine right of kings is now an exploded doctrine, and this famous act, in a few years, was found to be but a feeble barrier to the expulsion of the very man whose pretensions to the throne it was calculated to secure.

A test act was also passed this session as a touchstone of men's religious and political opinions†. It was framed in language so contradictory, that neither party could reconcile it to their creed, and an explanation was issued by the privy council. Although the object of this oath was to maintain (*inter alia*), the protestant religion; yet the king and his brother were exempted from its influence. The duke of York was known to be a papist, but he took care to relieve himself from the trammels of the test by an exception‡. He was too disingenuous to permit that indulgence to  
others

\* Charles II. p. 3. c. 2.

† Charles II. p. 3. c. 6.

‡ As the duke was a Roman Catholic, this *protestant* test must have been contrary to his own principles. His pushing it therefore at the point of the bayonet, must have proceeded from political considerations, quite unconnected with religious opinions, and it is probable, that his object was solely to render the monarchy absolute.—*Fide Fox's History*, p. 124.

others which he claimed to himself; and eighty clergymen resigned their livings rather than subscribe it. The presbyterians, for the most part, declined the oath; and several of the most eminent men in the nation subscribed it under explanations\*.

The test oath was a court engine to entrap those whom it wished to destroy; and the earl of Argyle was ensnared, tried, and unjustly condemned; but he escaped from prison, and as usual in such cases, his estate, honours, and life, were forfeited in absence, and a large reward offered for his head. The flagitious attainder of Argyle excited the utmost indignation among all parties, and many of the nobility and barons fled from their country to avoid proscription. Innocent men were accused of crimes, and condemned by an iniquitous court. To converse with a suspected person was treason, and a "proclamation was issued against all who had ever harboured, or communed with rebels," which included whole districts. The test oath was the only indemnity; and to avoid destruction, the people received it against their conscience†. But trials and executions were still continued, as a pretence for extortions, and to gratify the most rancorous revenge.

In the western and southern counties, an inquisition was made by the clergy and officers of justice, and a secret roll was prepared for the circuits of the court of justiciary, which comprehended an immense number. "At the conclusion of the first circuit, a proscriptive  
" list

\* Laing, vol. ii, p. 112.

† Ibid. p. 129.

" list of two thousand outlaws, or fugitives from justice, was proclaimed to the nation; and to the  
 " mockery of all regular government, subordinate, or  
 " rather, intermediate circuits were held, by officers  
 " invested with justiciary powers, who summoned juries, administered tortures or oaths at discretion, and  
 " practised every species of extortion or outrage to be  
 " expected when the military are entrusted with the  
 " execution of the laws\*." The fines exacted by the servants of government were a source of public revenue, and within eleven counties, they amounted to a hundred and eighty thousand pounds sterling, exclusive of compositions: for it was common with gentlemen of rank to redeem their lives and estates by the payment of heavy bribes. But the sanguinary temper of government still pursued the presbyterians with unabated fury; and goaded beyond endurance, they secretly issued a declaration, avowing their determination to retaliate the enormities committed on their sect. In return, a massacre was ordained by the council, which voted, that " whosoever owned, or refused to disown the declaration on oath, should be  
 " put to death, in presence of two witnesses, though  
 " unarmed when taken." The execution of this bloody enactment was committed to the military, who had orders to put those who owned the declaration to the sword, and to execute those who refused to disown it, on the spot, before witnesses: also, to secure their families, above the age of twelve, for transportation, and to burn the houses of those who were absent†.

Women:

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 130.

† Ibid. p. 135.

Women were not exempted ; but their punishment was drowning. So obstinate were the *Recusants* that many, rather than abjure the declaration, submitted to be arraigned, convicted, and led to the gibbet, on the same day\*. Military execution now raged with terrible destruction ; and the unhappy victims of court cruelty, were shot on the high roads, or at their occupations in the fields. Those who fled, were pursued and massacred ; and the most wanton murders were indiscriminately perpetrated. The sanguinary Graham of Claverhouse (Viscount Dundee), refined upon the cruelty of his infamous associates ; and “ on one occasion, when six unarmed fugitives were intercepted, four were instantly shot in his presence ; the remaining two were afterwards executed by his order ; and on another, a husband whose flight he had arrested, was produced to his family to be put to death in the arms of his wife † ! ”

Such enormities would be incredible, if they were not established by the records of the council, and otherwise well authenticated. They have been, however, carefully concealed by episcopal writers, that their sect may not be reproached with the atrocities committed under this and the succeeding reign‡. But that

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 136.

† Ibid. p. 137.

‡ Mr. Skinner, who professes to write a history of the Scottish church, takes no notice of the enormities committed under the episcopal dominion, during the reigns of Charles and James. But he takes care to record minutely the excesses of the presbyterians after the Revolution, although he cannot produce a single instance

that the episcopal church was more intolerant, persecuting, and sanguinary in this country than the Roman Catholic\*, or even the covenanting, is established beyond all controversy.

Charles II. died at Whitehall, on the 6th of February, 1685, in the fifty-fifth year of his age, and thirty-seventh of his reign. He had lived too long for the liberties of his country, and was regretted by none but those who dreaded the still more intolerant and arbitrary principles of his successor. Charles knew the crimes of his ministers, or heard the cries of the people, and his refusal to alleviate the sufferings of his subjects, was a participation of the guilt of his servants. Without religion, morality, or virtue of any kind, he possessed a cruel, unforgiving temper; "and the orders for a massacre were certainly executed with his approbation, if not subscribed with his hand†."

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stance where an individual of the episcopal sect lost his life. Such gross partiality must sink the character of the historian into that of the partizan.

\* The reformed clergy have constantly exaggerated the persecutions of the Romish church, in order to palliate those of their own; but in Scotland, the persecutions under the episcopal church, have exceeded in extent and enormity those of the papal, more than five hundred fold; and at this period, it was one reformed sect pursuing another to destruction, without the pretence of any substantial difference in doctrine, but merely for a discrepancy of opinion about points quite immaterial. The cry of "No Popery" is supported by a list of massacres and murders in France and Ireland, and persecutions in England and Scotland; but protestants forget their own massacres, murders, and persecutions.

† Laing, vol. ii. p. 142.



The duke of York was proclaimed at London on the same day that his brother died ; and the country had nothing auspicious to expect from the reign of a man who had conducted himself so unworthily when a subject. He declined the coronation oath for Scotland, as incompatible with the religion he wished to establish ; but the oath of allegiance was rigidly exacted from the people, and military violence continued to increase\*. Numbers were daily shot : whole parties were tried by the soldiers, and executed in the highways. Women were burned on the cheek, or drowned : a girl of eighteen, and a woman upwards of sixty years of age, were fastened to stakes beneath the sea mark, that they might expire by a protracted death†.

A parliament was assembled on the 28th April, 1685, which was completely obsequious to the crown. It voted away the rights of the people, and promised entire obedience to the mandates of the tyrant. “ No courtier, even the most prostitute (says Hume), could go farther than the parliament itself, towards a resignation of their liberties‡ ;” and the Scottish nation was reduced by this infamous assembly to a state of the most abject servility.

Against such a government, insurrection was meritorious ; but the ill concerted descent of the earl of Argyle only terminated in his execution, on the 30th of June, 1685. The gaols were crowded with his followers. Numbers were driven to the castle of Duntottar,

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 145.

† Fox's History, p. 130 and 131.

‡ Chap. LXX.

nottar, and confined in a dungeon, which still retains the name of the *Whig's Vault*, where they daily expired, from the corrupted air, and the *want of the common necessities of life*\*. The duke of Monmouth, the eldest of the late king's natural children, was no less unfortunate in his invasion of England. But there is a point beyond which it is impossible to endure suffering; and degraded as the parliament of Scotland then was, the apprehension of additional calamities, by the introduction of a popish ministry, induced an opposition to the proposed repeal of the test and penal laws against Roman Catholics.

The encroachments of the crown on the civil liberties of the subject, and finally, their total extinction by the arbitrary acts of Charles and James, could not awaken one sentiment of honest independence in the Scottish parliament; but the attempt to introduce popery, aroused all their latent feelings. It was in vain that the king, in the exercise of his *divine right*, dispensed

\* In this vault there may still be seen indented places around the walls, where the hands of the prisoners were wedged.—An inscription on a stone in the church-yard of Dunnottar, of which the following is a copy, seems to apply to some of these unhappy sufferers.

“ Here lyes John Stot, James Atchison, James Russell, and  
 “ one whose name wee have not gotten, and two women whose  
 “ names also wee know not, and two who perished comeing  
 “ doune the rock, one whose name was James Watson, the  
 “ other not known, who all died prisoners in Dunnottar Castle,  
 “ anno 1685, for their adherence to the word of God, and Scot-  
 “ land's covenanted work of Reformation.”—*Revelations*, xith  
 chapter, 12th verse.

dispensed with the penal laws against catholics\*. The episcopal party were alarmed, lest they should be supplanted by the popish. The presbyterians detested both. But James, that he might disunite the protestants, and veil his plans for the alteration of the national religion, repealed, by his own absolute authority, the laws against non-conformity. The presbyterians enjoyed the benefits of the indulgence, although they despised the motives by which it was dictated. The English people, however, were prepared to break the fetters which had enslaved them, and they directed their eyes to the Prince of Orange.

A conspiracy, the best concerted and the best conducted that perhaps ever existed, invited the prince to assume the government of the three kingdoms, and he landed at Torbay on the 5th of November, 1688. A rapid and universal defection from the king deprived him of the means of resistance. Pusillanimous and irresolute, his mind was enfeebled by the constant apprehension of personal danger. He ordered his army to be disbanded; threw the Great Seal into the Thames; "and with a single attendant, embarked in " a small vessel at midnight for France†."

The revolution in Scotland was no less complete, and included both church and state. Six thousand presbyterians appeared in arms; but as no enemy op-

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posed

\* The king's object for the repeal of the penal laws, was to open the way for papists to fill the offices of the state, when he could the more easily introduce the Romish religion.

† Laing, vol. ii. p. 177.

posed them in the field, they separated into small parties to extirpate prelacy. On Christmas day the episcopal clergy were dragged from their altars; paraded through their parishes in mock procession, and dismissed on a solemn assurance never to return\*. These excesses continued for several weeks; but it does not appear that any blood was shed, and when we consider, that the episcopal church was cemented by tortures, murders, massacres, and the death of thousands, it must be allowed that the presbyterians triumphed in humanity as well as in justice.

During the short reign of James, his despotism was constantly active, and his arbitrary measures embraced the most minute objects. The regular distribution of justice, even in civil cases†, was biassed or perverted, and he claimed the right of nominating the magistrates of boroughs, in direct violation of the many salutary statutes of his progenitors. The secretary Melfort addressed a letter on this subject to the provost, bailies, and council of Aberdeen, dated at London, 15th of September, 1685, of which the following is a copy.

“ Much Honoured,

“ The king having in himself the  
 “ power of naming the magistrates of all his burghs  
 royal

\* Laing, vol. ii. p. 180.

† The author has seen a holograph (autograph) letter from James to a private gentleman, informing him that he had written to the lord advocate of Scotland to procure a favourable decision in a process then depending before the court of session, relative to a civil debt claimed by him from an individual.

“ royal, so oft as may be for the good of his service,  
 “ does recommend to you the present magistrates, and  
 “ others of the burgh of Aberdeen, concerned in the  
 “ election of magistrates for the ensuing year, to elect  
 “ and nominate bailie George Leslie to be provost of  
 “ the said burgh for the year coming. This is his  
 “ majesty’s pleasure, being by his royal command in-  
 “ timate to you.—Much Honoured, your humble ser-  
 “ vant;  
 MELFORT.”

Leslie was accordingly elected on the 23d of September. Soon after, the magistrates received an act of the privy-council, ordering his majesty’s birth-day (14th October), to be kept as a solemn fast, and to be celebrated with every demonstration of joy. The king’s commands were obeyed, and the clergy fervently prayed for his prosperity. A *feu de joye* was fired; and the magistrates and people drank wine of the “ best quality” in commemoration of his happy accession to the throne of his ancestors.

On the day of election next year (22d September, 1686), his majesty’s interference interrupted the proceedings of the court. Provost Leslie produced a letter to the members then assembled, dated at Windsor on the 12th current, expressly prohibiting and discharging any election from taking place for this year, and authorising the present magistrates and council to continue in the exercise of their respective offices, until his majesty’s farther pleasure should be known. In October following, the earl Marischal attended a meeting of the magistrates and council, and produced an

act of the privy council, appointing the provost, magistrates, office-bearers, and council for the ensuing year. At next election (28th September, 1687), the provost produced an order from the privy council, forbidding any election until his majesty should signify his pleasure, which was obeyed. On the 14th of December, however, provost Leslie presented an act dated the 10th of November, at Whitehall, containing a court list of magistrates and counsellors for Aberdeen.

On the 26th September, 1688, another order from the privy council was produced, prohibiting a new election, and authorising the present magistrates and council to remain in office until his majesty's further pleasure should be known. But on 12th of November, the provost produced a letter from the chancellor, empowering them to elect the magistrates and council, and to nominate only such persons as were distinguished for their loyalty, and attachment to his majesty's government. In consequence of this order, Alexander Gordon was elected provost of Aberdeen.

This was the last mandate issued by the king to the city of Aberdeen; for by this time the Prince of Orange had landed in England. and James VII. abdicated that throne which he had so much disgraced. On the 8th of January, 1689, the magistrates and council assembled, and by a majority, voted an address to the Prince and Princess of Orange, and Dr. George Gordon, one of the town's ministers, was appointed their commissioner to present it in London.

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The last bishop we noticed, was Patrick Forbes of Corse, and he was succeeded by Adam Ballenden, son of Sir John Ballenden, who was justice-clerk. He was promoted to the see of Aberdeen anno 1635, having been previously bishop of Dornblane. He was excommunicated by the assembly of Glasgow, 1638, and retired into England, where he died.

After the restoration of episcopacy (July 9th, 1661), David Mitchell was consecrated bishop of Aberdeen, anno 1662. He was a native of the county of Kincardine, and a minister of the city of Edinburgh. He went to England after his deposition in 1638, and was made a prebendary of Westminster. He was created doctor of divinity at Oxford, and it is said, that he had been a great sufferer for the cause of his majesty and the church. He enjoyed his bishoprick scarcely a year, and was buried in the cathedral church of St. Machar.

Alexander Burnett succeeded Mitchell, but he sat little more than a year, having been translated to the see of Glasgow, 1664. He afterwards became primate of St. Andrews on the murder of Sharp, where he remained until his death in the year 1684, and was buried in St. Salvator's College, near the tomb of bishop Kennedy.

Patrick Scougal succeeded Burnet, and was consecrated bishop of Aberdeen on Easter day, anno 1664. He was the son of Sir John Scougal, and died on the 16th of February, 1684, in the seventy-third year of his age. George Haliburton was his successor, and the last bishop who filled the see of Aberdeen. He

was minister at Cupar in Angus, and was first promoted to the see of Brechin, thence translated to Aberdeen, anno 1682, where he sat until the Revolution in 1688. He enjoyed unmolested repose after the downfall of his sect, at his house in Denhead, in the parish of Cupar in Angus, and died on the 29th of September, 1715, at the age of seventy-seven.

The following gentlemen were provosts of Aberdeen from the year 1650, down to the Revolution, viz.

1651, Alexander Jaffray : 52-3-4, George Morrison : 55, Thomas Gray : 56, George Cullen : 57-8-9, John Jaffray : 60-1, Gilbert Gray : 62, William Gray : 63, Gilbert Gray : 64-5, Robert Petrie : 66, Gilbert Gray : 67-8-9 and 70, Robert Petrie : 71-2-3, Robert Forbes : 74, Robert Petrie : 75, Robert Forbes : 76—85, George Skene of Fintray : 86-7, George Leslie : 1688, Alexander Gordon.

NOTE



## NOTE

### *Of the Prices of Grain, &c. at Different Times.*

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[As we have occasionally mentioned the prices of commodities in Scotland, at different periods, we subjoin the following extract for the farther information of the reader.]

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- 1435 WHEAT, seven shillings Scots the boll ; malt, four shillings Scots ; meal, three shillings, eight pennies.
- 1453 The ale ordered to be sold at eight pennies the gallon.
- 1475 The boll of wheat, seven shillings.
- 1478 Ale at the highest, twelve pennies the gallon ; wheat-bread, of twelve ounces weight, one penny.
- 1507 The best mutton bulk, two shillings eight pennies Scots.
- 1508 The salmon barrel, fifty-five shillings Scots.
- 1517 A boll of wheat, twelve shillings Scots.
- 1522 Best mutton bulk, three shillings Scots ; best ale, eight pennies the gallon.

- 1523 Lambs, twenty pennies each.
- 1526 Ale, sixteen pennies the gallon.
- 1527 The tun of wine, twenty pounds Scots.
- 1528 The oat loaf at sixteen ounces, one penny, as long as the meal holds at sixteen shillings Scots the boll.
- 1531 Sheep's tallow, six shillings Scots the stone; nolt's ditto, five shillings the stone.
- 1532 July 10th, bear was twenty-two shillings Scots the boll.
- 1545 Wine, white and red, fourteen pennies the pint.
- 1547 The best mutton bulk, half a merk; sheep's tallow, ten shillings Scots the stone; nolt's tallow, eight shillings the stone; wine, at sixteen pounds the tun, to be sold at eight pennies the pint; twenty pounds the ton, to be sold at ten pennies the pint; twenty-four pounds the ton, at twelve pennies the pint.
- 1550 Ale at the highest, two pennies the gallon; the best mutton bulk, seven shillings.
- 1588 Pitcott mentions there was so bad a crop in Scotland, that the meal ran up to eighteen pounds the boll.
- 1634 The victual was at sixteen marks the boll.
- 1637 There was no bear meal nor bear straw sold at Elgin on the 6th of July.

In the end of the 16th century, provisions had risen much in their prices, above what they had been in the beginning

beginning of it, and in the 14th and 15th, as appears from the following authentic instruction, being the confirmed testament of Mrs. Kathrine Grant, spouse to Walter Baird of Ordinknives. She was daughter to Grant of Badinalach, brother to the laird of Grant; first married to Alexander Leslie of Thronmevis, to whom she bore three sons, and four daughters; and next to Ordinknives, to whom she had only one daughter, Lillias Baird, married in 1578 to Gilbert Baird of Auchmedin, to whom she had three sons and daughters. Kathrine Grant was an active mettled woman, and had an uncommon humour of holding at the same time several farms in different places, at a good distance. Her testament is dated at Banff, March 15th, 1591, and in it the following articles are confirmed upon and valued at Banff:

Eight plough oxen, valued at ten merks each, and eight work-horses at twenty merks each.—In Bankhead, twenty-four milk-cows at five pounds each; seven two-years old steers at forty pennies each; five four-year old steers at five pounds each; four score ewes with lambs, at twenty pennies the ewes and lambs; fifty-four bolls oats, at twenty pennies the boll.—In Dallachy sown, thirty bolls estimate to the 3d, valued at twenty pennies a boll: sown, two bolls wheat, estimate to the 6th, and valued at three pounds the boll.—In the corn-yard, thirty-six bolls bear, at four pennies the boll; twenty-six bolls oats, at twenty pennies each boll; three bolls wheat, at three pounds each boll; three bolls wheat, at seven pounds each boll.—

bull.—In Auchanchy and the Ley, forty-two one-year old sheep, at a merk each ; twenty rams ; nine ewes and lambs ; twenty-three one-year old wethers ; and twenty old ewes, all at twenty pennies each.—At Auchungorth, nine oxen, at ten merks each ; three-year old steers, at fifty pennies each ; and twenty-eight bulls eats, at twenty pennies each.

N.B. The above prices are all reckoned in Scots money.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

THE  
**HISTORY**  
OF  
**A B E R D E E N;**

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
RISE, PROGRESS, AND EXTENSION OF THE CITY,  
*FROM A REMOTE PERIOD TO THE PRESENT DAY;*

INCLUDING ITS  
*Antiquities, Civil and Ecclesiastical State,*  
**MANUFACTURES, TRADE, AND COMMERCE;**

AN ACCOUNT OF  
*The See of Aberdeen, and the two Universities;*

WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF EMINENT MEN CONNECTED  
WITH THE BISHOPRICK AND COLLEGES.

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By **WALTER THOM;**  
AUTHOR OF SKETCHES ON POLITICAL ECONOMY,  
*&c. &c. &c.*

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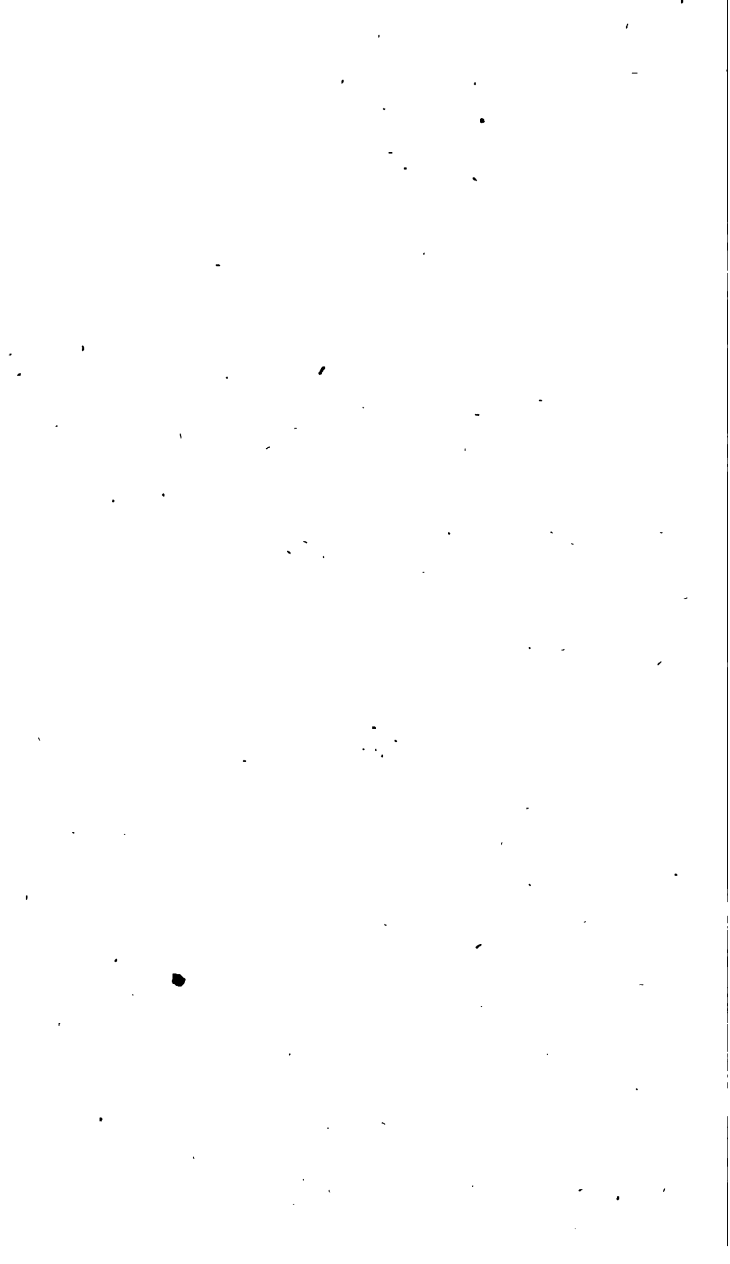
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IN TWO VOLUMES,  
VOL. II.

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ABERDEEN:  
*Printed by D. Chalmers and Co.*  
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## CHAPTER I.

### CONTENTS.

[TRANSACTIONS AT ABERDEEN FROM THE PERIOD OF THE  
REVOLUTION TO THE YEAR 1783—UNION—REBELLIONS  
IN 1715 AND 1745—ELECTIONS—PROVOSTS OF ABERDEEN  
—STATE OF CHURCH AFFAIRS.]

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**T**HE most prominent events in the history of Scotland since the æra of the Revolution, are, the union of the two kingdoms, and the rebellions in 1715 and 1745. The first event, so beneficial to both countries, consolidated the British empire, by identifying the interests of two nations formerly hostile ; and the two last, preserved the liberties of the people, as they destroyed the hopes of an arbitrary race of kings, whose maxims were despotic ; and secured the house of Brunswick in the possession of the throne, on the principles of a free government.

The British constitution has justly merited and obtained the unqualified approbation of both natives and foreigners ; and has frequently been the theme of their praise, or the subject of their admiration. The security of property, and the protection of individual right, are the basis on which the prosperity of this country has been reared : and while we preserve entire the constitution as established in 1688, the wealth and happiness of the nation must progressively increase. The blessing of freedom being equally diffused among all classes of society, the exertions of industry are promoted by the certainty of enjoyment ; and accordingly, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, have rapidly advanced.

The city of ABERDEEN, which is the particular subject of our work, has participated in the general prosperity, and for public spirit and enterprize, its citizens are inferior to none.—But before we proceed to investigate the present state of the *Capital of the North*, it may not be unacceptable to our readers, to premise a few incidents of an historical nature, connected with our inquiry.

For some years previously to the Revolution, we have seen, that James II. arbitrarily appointed the magistrates of Aberdeen, in virtue of that self-created authority which emanated from the divine right of kings. But at Michaelmas 1689, the election took place by a poll of the burgesses, and Alexander Gordon was chosen provost. Next year, the same mode  
of



of proceeding was adopted, and John Sandilands was elected. But on the 8th of July, 1691, an act of the privy council, of date the 23d of June, was presented by bailies Moir and Robertson, ordering a new provost to be elected by the magistrates and council, in the place of Mr. Sandilands: Walter Cochrane was accordingly appointed, and at next Michaelmas, he was re-elected for the ensuing year. In the years 1693-4-5-6, Robert Cruickshank of Banchory was elected provost.

At Michaelmas, 1697, John Johnston was elected to the office of chief magistrate; but an exception was taken to his election by several members of the council, who raised an action of reduction before the lords of the privy council, which was sustained. A new election was therefore ordered on the 8th of December, when Alexander Walker was chosen provost; and at the same time, it was enacted by the magistrates and council, that in future no provost should be continued in office longer than two years.

In the years 1698 and 99, Thomas Mitchell was provost; 1700-1, John Allardyce; 1702-3, Thomas Mitchell; 1704-5, Alexander Paton; 1706-7, John Gordon; and for 1708-9, John Allardyce was again elected provost.

In the year 1708, water was brought into the town in pipes, for the accommodation of the inhabitants, and reservoirs and wells were erected. William Lindsay, goldsmith, was appointed superintendant of the water-works, with a salary of £16:13:4 sterling, annually.

nually. The union of the two kingdoms had taken place in 1707; and John Gordon, late provost, represented the Aberdeen district of boroughs, in the first British parliament. The honour of sitting in St. Stephen's chapel was not so anxiously courted then as in our own times; and we may reasonably conjecture, that it was not attended with so much personal advantage then as in the present day: for the town-council of Aberdeen agreed to defray his expenses. The treasurer was ordered by act of council, the 9th July, 1709, to pay to Mr. Gordon, £216 sterling, being the amount of his expenses from the 11th of October last, to May this year, as per account given in by him. A similar order was issued on the 23d of June, 1710, for £163 sterling, to be paid to him to liquidate his expenses during the last session of parliament.

John Ross of Arnage was provost for the years 1710 and 11; John Allardyce, for 1712 and 13; and Robert Stewart, for the year 1714. In the beginning of August this year, queen Anne died, and was succeeded by George, elector of Hanover, who was proclaimed sovereign of the three kingdoms. His reign was soon disturbed (1715), by an insurrection in Scotland, instigated by the son of James II. commonly called the *Pretender*, and supported by the adherents of his family, who were termed *Jacobites*.

The duke of Argyle was appointed to the military command in Scotland; and the earl of Mar headed the rebel clans. They came in contact with their forces on Sheriff-muir, and after a hard-fought battle, both sides claimed the victory. The Pretender countenanced

nanced his friends by his presence, but he possessed none of the requisites for war, and when his affairs became unpromising, he shamefully stole off with some of his favourites to France.

As many of the citizens of Aberdeen were engaged in this rebellion, it may be proper to notice some occurrences which took place in the town during the years 1715 and 16.

On the 28th of September, 1715, earl Marischal entered Aberdeen with a troop of horse, and being joined by the disaffected, he proceeded to the cross, and proclaimed the Chevalier de St. George, king of Great Britain, &c. This ceremony being performed, he next took possession of the town-house, and prevented the election of the magistrates and council. By tuck of drum, he ordered the inhabitants to meet next day at the new church, and proceed to the election by poll, which was accordingly done, and Patrick Bannerman was chosen provost.

On the 17th of October, a head-court was called, when the provost produced a letter from the earl of Mar, who commanded the rebel army, dated at Perth the 6th current, ordering the magistrates and council to raise from the town L.200 sterling, as cess for six months, by the 30th inst., under certification of the penalty of quartering. The money was immediately raised by a general assessment on the inhabitants.

Three of the town's ministers continued to pray for the Hanoverian king, notwithstanding the order of the magistrates to pray for the Pretender. They were displaced, and Dr. George Gordon, Dr. Alexander Burnett,

and Mr. Dumbreck, were appointed to officiate. The deposed ministers, however, hired two houses to contain their hearers, and persevered in praying for king George I. in defiance of either the magistrates or the Pretender's authority.

A head-court was called on the 27th of October, and the provost laid before it a letter he had received from the earl of Mar, dated from the camp at Perth, the 14th of October, 1715, and addressed to the magistrates and council of Aberdeen, of which the following is a copy.

" Gentlemen,

" The necessity of the king's affairs, and the safety of the country at this juncture,  
 " requiring that every good Scotsman should be assisting to the public according to his ability; and  
 " having desired that the sum of L.2000 sterling be  
 " borrowed from gentlemen heritors, particularly from  
 " burghers, tradesmen, and others, residing within the  
 " town of Aberdeen, for the use of the king's army,  
 " for which they shall have the public credit, to be  
 " repaid with interest from the time of advance:—I  
 " therefore thought it fit to acquaint you therewith,  
 " that you proportion it among them in such a manner as may be most easy for the inhabitants, and  
 " most effectual for raising the said sum. Your speedy  
 " complying therewith will prevent further trouble.  
 "—I am, Gentlemen, Yours, &c. MAR."

The people of Aberdeen were well affected to the Pretender's cause, but they thought it rather *unconscionable*

able in Mar to demand so great a sum, and therefore restricted it to the one half. About the middle of December, the Pretender arrived at Peterhead from France, and came to Aberdeen *incognito*, where he dined in the house of Alexander Scott, shipmaster in the Castlegate; thence he went to Fetteresso, and passed by the high road to Perth.

At a meeting of the head-court, the 21st January, 1716, the provost produced the Pretender's proclamation, dated at Scone, the 10th January, requiring all those able to bear arms to repair to his camp at Perth. The provost made a motion, that the town should raise a troop of horse for his majesty's (the Pretender's) service, and that £500 should be levied to support them, of which the meeting unanimously approved. The duke of Argyle, however, having advanced to attack the rebels at Perth, they did not think it proper to wait his approach, and retreated northwards. The pusillanimous Chevalier de St. George embarked at Montrose, and left his army to shift for itself, which was disbanded at Aberdeen by the earl Marischal\*.

The alteration of circumstances produced a change of the magistrates and council of Aberdeen. Those gentlemen who had been in office previously to the rebellion, were ordered by an act of the privy council, to meet on the 10th of April, to elect new magistrates, to be continued until next Michaelmas, which was accordingly done, and Robert Stewart was chosen provost.

On

On the 10th of June this year, it was enacted by the magistrates and council, that no person within the town or suburbs should thatch his house with heath or straw, but that all houses should be covered with slates or tyles, under the penalty of fifty merks Scots.

The following gentlemen were provosts for the years respectively prefixed to their names, viz. 1716-17, John Gordon; 1718-19, George Fordyce; 1720-21, Robert Stewart; 1722-23, George Fordyce; 1724, 25, Robert Stewart; 1726-27, George Fordyce; 1728-29, William Cruickshank; 1730-31, James Morrison.—In this year, Robert Gordon, of the family of Straloch died, and bequeathed from L.10,000 to L.11,000 sterling, towards the erection of an hospital for the maintenance and education of burghers and tradesmen's sons in Aberdeen.

In the years 1732-33, William Cruickshank was provost: for 1734-35, Hugh Hay; 1736-37, John Robertson; 1738-39, William Chalmers was provost. On the 1st of January, 1740, the magistrates and council, with a number of the principal inhabitants, went in procession to the Woolman-hill, where they laid the foundation-stone of the Infirmary. This was a proud day for the people of Aberdeen, as they were employed in the cause of humanity, and consecrated to the good of mankind, a noble monument of benevolence and virtue.

For the year 1740-41, Alexander Robertson was provost; for 1742, Alexander Anderson; 1743, Alexander Aberdein. In 1744, James Morrison was provost. The crop this year was destroyed by rain.

It

It began to fall on the 8th of September, and continued with little intermission for six weeks. The harvest had been previously commenced, but the unfavourable weather disappointed the hopes of the husbandman ; and in the following year, the country was thrown into confusion by the pretensions of the Stuart family to the throne of these kingdoms.

Our limits will not permit us to enter minutely into the public transactions of that period, and therefore we can only notice such incidents as relate to the city of Aberdeen.

Prince Charles Stuart landed on the north-west coast of Scotland in the month of August, 1745, and erected the royal standard. He was joined by several of the Highland clans, which formed a small army. General Sir John Cope marched with a few regiments to suppress the rebellion, and reached Inverness. But the prince's army made a rapid movement to the south, and took possession of Edinburgh. Sir John Cope retreated from Inverness to Aberdeen, where he arrived on the 11th of September, and encamped on the Dove Cot Brae. He was anxious to protect the capital of Scotland, and had ordered transports to meet him at Aberdeen, to carry his army to Dunbar, where he arrived on the 17th ; but the Highlanders had on that day occupied Edinburgh. Sir John Cope, before sailing, applied to the magistrates of Aberdeen for the town's cannon and small arms, which he received, and shipped on board of his transports.

On the 25th September, the day of election of the magistrates and council, John Hamilton, factor (steward)

ard) to the duchess-dowager of Gordon, entered Aberdeen with a number of Strathbogie men on horseback. They proclaimed the Pretender king of these realms at the cross, and afterwards took possession of the town-house, which prevented the election of the magistrates for that year. Lord Lewis Gordon was appointed governor of Aberdeen by Prince Charles, and he nominated William Moir of Lonmay, his deputy.

Lord Lewis raised a regiment consisting of two battalions, and took up his head-quarters at Aberdeen. He imposed a tax on the proprietors of land, who were obliged to furnish him with one able-bodied man, or five pounds sterling for every hundred pounds Scots of valued rent; and he constantly kept parties scouring the country to collect men and money\*. To prevent the levy of this arbitrary assessment, by which the enemy supported himself, Macleod of Macleod, and Munro of Culcairn, were sent by lord Loudon from Inverness to Inverury with six hundred and fifty men. Lord Lewis marched his own regiment, and part of lord John Drummond's, with three hundred Farquharsons, under Farquharson of Monaltry, to attack Macleod and Munro at Inverury. It was late before lord Lewis reached the place (23d December). It was, however, moon light, and the firing began on both sides, and continued for some time. But lord John Drummond's soldiers, and the Farquharsons, charged the Macleods, who gave way, and precipitately fled. Few men were  
killed

\* Home's History of the Rebellion, p. 258.



killed on either side, but forty-one Macleods were taken prisoners; among whom were some gentlemen of consideration. Soon after this skirmish, lord Lewis Gordon marched his men to join the rebel army at Perth, which was the place of their general rendezvous\*.

On the 27th of February, 1746, the duke of Cumberland arrived at Aberdeen with the whole of his army, where he remained until the 8th of April. His forces were divided about the end of March into three large bodies: one lay at Strathbogie, another at Old Meldrum, and the third at Aberdeen, where the duke himself commanded.

On the 8th of April, the duke marched from Aberdeen with the rear-division of his army, and advancing northwards, concentrated his troops at Cullen, in the neighbourhood of the river Spey, which he passed. Both armies came in contact on Culloden-muir, on the 16th of April. The Highlanders made a fierce attack on the king's army, but they were everywhere repulsed, broken, and dispersed. A great many were killed in the battle, and in the pursuit. The rebellion was crushed; forfeitures and executions followed; and the hopes of the house of Stuart were annihilated. Prince Charles, after many hair-breadth escapes, and suffering innumerable hardships, got on board of a French frigate, and arrived at Roscort, near Morlaix, in Brittany, on the 29th of September, 1746†.

During

\* Home's History of the Rebellion; p. 159.

† Ibid. p. 261.

During the duke of Cumberland's residence in Aberdeen, he appointed twelve of the principal burghesses to govern and manage the affairs of the town, until peace should be restored to the country. This board of management consisted of the following gentlemen, viz. William Cruikshank, John Robertson, William Chalmers, Alexander Robertson, Alexander Aberdein, and James Morrison, late provosts ; William Mowat, William Gordon, and John Burnett, late bailies ; Andrew Logie, late dean of guild ; Alexander Thomson, consultor ; and John Auldjo, convenor of trades.

When the rebellion was suppressed, his majesty's privy council sent an order to the members of the old and new council to meet in the town-house on the 9th July, and to proceed to finish the election, which was interrupted at last Michaelmas by Mr. Hamilton, which was accordingly done, and John Morrison was elected provost.

For the year 1746-47, William Chalmers was chief magistrate ; for 1748-49, Alexander Robertson ; for 1750-51, Alexander Livingstone. At Michaelmas next year, a dispute took place among the magistrates and council, who were equally divided—one of their number having gone abroad. It is represented, that provost Livingstone wished to form a junto of his own friends, that he might retain the influence of the town, which was resisted by some of the members. They absented themselves on Michaelmas day, conceiving that the provost would not proceed to the election without the necessary number to constitute a quorum. Livingstone,  
with

with his friends, however, proceeded in the election of the magistrates and council; and James Morrison was chosen provost. A process of reduction was raised before the court of session by the absentees; but the earl of Findlater, who then interfered in the politics of the town, accomplished a reconciliation of the parties. He gave them an entertainment in his lodgings, and by wine, soothed their asperity, and cemented their union.

The following gentlemen were provosts of Aberdeen for the years prefixed to their names, viz. 1753, James Morrison; 54-55, William Mowat; 56-57, Alexander Robertson; 58-59, John Duncan; 60-61, William Davidson; 62-63, John Duncan; 64-65, George Shand; 66-67, John Duncan; 68-69, James Jopp; 70-71, George Shand; 72-73, James Jopp; 74-75, Adam Duff; 76-77, James Jopp; 78-79, William Young; 80-81, James Jopp; 82-83, William Young.

The state of the presbyterian church for a good many years after the Revolution, may be known by the following excerpts from the presbytery register.

*Excerpts from the Presbytery Register of Aberdeen.*

The formation of the presbyterian government in this part of the country, after the Revolution, seems to have been in the following manner.

1694—" 11th July. At session-house, in the New Kirk, Aberdeen, there convened, by an appointment of the committee of the late General Assembly: For the north, a committee of three persons; Mr. William Dunlop, principal of Glasgow: of seven ministers in this country; and two gentlemen, and two citizens,

ruling elders. The advice from the committee for the north was, 1. That all the brethren of the presbyterians within the synod, should form one united presbytery, 2. That an elder from each congregation, where an eldership was instituted, should attend. 3. That a register be kept. 4. That business from sessions should be received and cognosed. 5. That none, continuing attached to, and brought in by, episcopacy, be received: And none be transported without advice of the committee. They were to call ministers, and appoint elders, attached to presbytery, and the present government."—" Upon five of these seven ministers applying to the committee for the north, signing their confession of faith, and agreeing to the terms of union given out by the last assembly, they were admitted into the presbyterian communion, and advised to form a presbytery. The ministers who had attached themselves to this scheme, were, Mr. Arthur Mitchell, eldest minister of Turriff; Mr. George Anderson of Tarves; Mr. David Lyndsay of Drumoak; Mr. Patrick Innes of Banff; Mr. William Johnston of Kerne; Mr. William Thomson of Achindore; Mr. William Garioch of Kinethmont: and Mr. William Fraser of Slains."

1694—" The town of Aberdeen called Mr. Thomas Ramsay, minister at Calder, near Glasgow." He afterwards protested he would not come to Aberdeen, unless another minister also be appointed."

—" Ministers from the south were sent to supply vacancies."

—" Mr. James Osburne, minister at Kilmarnock,

nock, in the presbytery of Irvine, was called to Aberdeen. He was afterwards (1698) presented, and called to be professor of divinity in Aberdeen, and much employed by the presbytery about papers, and things of moment."

1694—"The presbytery met often at Turriff."

—Vacant stipends were collected for paying ministers and probationers preaching during vacancies "in this desolate part of the Lord's vineyard."

1697—"The ministers within the synod who formed before one presbytery, were divided into three presbyteries. That of Aberdeen and Kincardine consisted of Mr. James Osburne, and Mr. Thomas Ramsay, in the town of Aberdeen; Mr. William Thomson in Kintore; Mr. David Lyndsay in Dalmaik; Mr. Alexander Thomson in Peterculter; and Mr. Thomas Kinniar in Echt," said then to be in Kincardine.

1697—"A quaker kept school in Kinkell, to the great scandal of the people, and to perverting the youth."

1698—17th February.—"Last Sabbath, at New-Mills, Margaret Jaffray, daughter of Andrew Jaffray of Kingswells, coming with other quakers, entered the church, and cried, 'Do not believe that deceiver;' and said, she was sent of God to tell them He was about to destroy all idolatry and will-worship."

—A fast was usually kept on the Sunday before the ordination of ministers.

—"Mass had been said in Count Leslie's house, Aberdeen, by his brother.—There were then

four priests in Aberdeen, and a nunnery of six young women\* ; and a school kept by two papist women for young children."

1698—"The presbytery were asked to call legally a minister to vacant parishes. They refused to appoint a minister themselves, but sent a leet to the people, with power to them to choose one of those, or any other, for their minister."

———"The presbytery met at ten o'clock, forenoon, but did little business at that meeting. They met again at two o'clock, afternoon, and did a great deal. And at times, by three o'clock, more frequently."

———"The committee of the General Assembly met sometimes in considerable number at Aberdeen."

———"The synod now consisted of Aberdeen, Angus, and Mearns."

1699—"The presbytery adjourned with prayer."

———"The ministers were themselves (probably in rotation), clerks to the presbytery."

———"15th-November.—"No probationer was within the bounds of the presbytery of Aberdeen for the laird of Skene to choose for minister."

———"The trading company to Africa and the Indies, at this time, was prayed for publicly."

1700—"The Kincardine presbytery was disjoined by the synod."

———"Mr. Thomas Blackwell, by act of assembly, transported from Paisley to Aberdeen."

———"A complaint was made to the commission  
of

\* It is thought the nunnery was in the Guestrow.

of the General Assembly, That Sabbath is profaned by fishing on Dee and Don, and by riding journeys on that day. Also, of apostatizing to popery and quakerism. Likewise, that the doctrine of Bourignon was prevailing. And that excommunicated persons continued the sentence, and others conversed usually with them."

1700—"Dr. George Garden (of Aberdeen), prosecuted for writing and spreading an Apology for Bourignonism."—He was afterwards deposed by the General Assembly.

1700—"In Aberdeen there were eighty papists: the lairds Cairnfield, Hilton, and Kingoodie, and lady Wartel, the principal.—Fifty quakers: Andrew Jeffray of Kingswelles, and Alexander Jelly of Blackford, the principal. The quakers had their meetings, and preached in church-yards at burials, and on dismissing congregations, reviling the ministers. Episcopalians were accused of protecting incumbents, not presbyterians, and employing unqualified persons, who baptized with the sign of the cross, and kneeled in pulpit in time of saying the Lord's prayer: rites unknown from the Reformation. Incumbents protected Arminians, Socinians, Bourignonists: some of them were immoral; all grossly ignorant." Lists of papists, &c. seem to have been made up to be transmitted to the General Assembly.

1701—"Not to be above four friends, with servants, besides near relations and family, at a marriage—by act of General Assembly. Prohibited (by presbytery), piper and fiddler, as promoting lasciviousness,

if there be a penny bridal, or promiscuous dancing.”  
 —“ A collection, by order of the Assembly, for the harbour of Banff.”—“ Another, for the harbour of Eyemouth.” Collection at Aberdeen, L.9 5s. Scots. At Old Machar, L.15 Scots, for this last.

1701—“ The manse of Old Machar to be covered with tiles; the minister giving thirty merks.”

———“ There was an act of synod against trans-plantation of ministers within their bounds.”

———“ They sent to Edinburgh, and got persons fled from discipline. The session of North West Kirk gave a woman money to carry her to Aberdeen, having been cited to attend here.”

1703—“ Mr. Colin Campbell (father of the late principal Campbell), was called to be minister in Aberdeen, as third minister. There was a protest entered for Mr. Andrew Burnet, former episcopal incumbent, against the magistrates calling another in his room, he having taken the oaths; and by the municipal law of the burgh, ten being the least number (of council), to choose; whereas there were fewer for Mr. Campbell. Also, it was asserted, that the principal, and most numerous part of the people, were against him. It was answered, that Mr. Burnet had not taken the oaths in time. He had set up preaching in the Trinity Church. Mr. Campbell was settled minister.

———29th April.—“ Calls used to be approved in Aberdeen, by the head-court, especially where any controversy took place, as in the case of Mr. Paterson and Mr. Meldrum.”

———“ For support of two foundlings, each minister



nister of Aberdeen was to pay in two dollars, and each minister in the country, twenty shillings Scots."

1703—" Dr. Blair, alone, in Aberdeen, of the prelati- cal ministers, observed an appointed fast."

1704—" Each minister contributed three pounds Scots, as the least, for promoting schools in the Highlands (minimum), according to act of assembly for a subscription."

1704—" Each minister was to pay four pounds Scots, for Highland libraries."

1705—" In the session of Aberdeen, as members, were the provost, an old provost, several bailies, and the dean of guild."

—" A woman for adultery and fornication, with prevarication, besides church-censure, ordered to be whipped and banished, by the magistrates."

—" Each minister to add from himself, one pound Scots, to what was paid to the presbytery bur- sar."

1706—" A collection of £.1 10s. Scots, each minis- ter, appointed by presbytery for a poor man."

—" 30th October.—" Act of the commission of Assembly for a fast, on account of the affair of the union, on 14th November, to stir up themselves and people; and to meet with the elders and godly peo- ple for private prayer, on some day before; and a part of the day of next meeting of presbytery to be spent so by themselves."

—" Recommendation of the commission to prevent tumults in view to the union."—In respect to " lamentable complaints of increase of popery—to send.

send some probationers, skilled in the popish controversy, to oppose the priests in wide parishes, and assist in preaching, for which each minister should contribute a half of his half-year's stipend, to which the elders were to add: to be managed by a committee about Edinburgh."

1707—" In Aberdeen, at a visitation of the presbytery, it was answered, that the elders, for what they knew, had family worship and order in their houses, and were free of vice. The magistrates were friendly and assisting. The people had sad divisions among themselves, which made many withdraw from their ministry, and vice did much abound. Each minister had L.1000 Scots of stipend, and a chaldron of coals: The session-clerk, 160 merks. There were two beddals, one of which kept the register."

1708—" Each minister to pay ten shillings sterling, for assisting the society for propagating Christian knowledge, and setting up charity-schools, and to excite others to contribute."—" The town of Aberdeen had subscribed" to the scheme above.

—" Town of Aberdeen collected for Mr. John James Caesar, by appointment of assembly, the sum of L.23 7d. sterling, for the Protestant German congregation at London."

1711—3d May.—" On death of professor Osburne, Mr. Thomas Blackwell was called to be professor of divinity. The episcopal party pushed for Mr. Andrew Burnet, officiating in a meeting-house, being admitted to a charge in the high churches."

1711—" Mr. Francis Melville, minister of Arbuthnot, chosen to be minister in Aberdeen. He was appointed by act of assembly.

—" Four persons abjured popery."

—" An act of synod for neighbouring presbyteries to supply in a vacancy at Aberdeen."

1712—" The presbytery met every three weeks."

1717—3d July.—" Mr. Richard Maitland, episcopal incumbent at Neig, was deposed for praying for James the VIII.

1717—" The presbytery allowed the episcopal ministers, if sound and moral, to be not under the law: but if unsound or immoral, to be under the law."

—" Principal Chalmers was recommended by the presbytery to continue also professor of divinity (saving the right of the town-council to call another), although appointed principal."

1720—" The members of the presbytery appointed not to leave the presbytery without liberty obtained, till all be done; and the roll to be called at dismissing, that absentees be censured."

—" 25th August.—" At visitation by presbytery, of the city of Aberdeen, the ministers represented, that they had used endeavours to set up family-worship, not altogether without success. The magistrates curbed vice; but sin and division abounded. Each minister had L.1000 Scots, with a chaldron of coals. There had been L.13,740 Scots, mortified [for the poor], on Easter Skene and Carny: L.1000 Scots, by Dr. Lewis Gordon; L.333 Scots, by provost Mitchell;

chel; L.933, by provost Allardes; L.200 Scots, by bailie Ragg; besides some debts due.

1723—" *Ghost-raw, Aberdeen.*—N. B. In charters, the Broad Street is called, "The Broad-gate of the Gallowgate of Aberdeen."

1724—By people voting in a call to a minister, were meant heads of families of presbyterian persuasion, attending ordinances, not mere communicants. "The assembly appointed call by majority of heads of families."—"Mr. Colin Campbell, minister of Aberdeen, usually collected at the synod, and gave to indigent persons, according to the appointment of synod."

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## CHAPTER II.

### CONTENTS.

[THE CORPORATION FEU OFF THE COMMON PROPERTY—  
NEW STREET IMPROVEMENTS—POPULATION—POLICE,  
BILL—HARBOUR BILL.]

\* \* \* \*

IT is of late years that the CITY OF ABERDEEN has so greatly increased in extent and population. Previously to the union, this town, like most others in Scotland, had been nearly stationary for several centuries. The royalty of the borough extends no farther than the parish of St. Nicolas, which is embraced by that of St. Machar, which comprehends Gilcomston, the suburbs, and all the lands to the bridge of Dee. As the walls enclosed the town on the one side, and North-street, with Frederick-street, and the buildings in that quarter, did not exist, there were but few houses, until of late years, beyond the royalty. Where  
Gilcomston

Gilcomston is situated, which now contains so many people, and occupies so much space as to form an extensive village, there was only a single farm-house in the year 1756\*. A few years before that period, the Lochlands, on the north-west side of the town, were in an uncultivated state, for, it is said, that Alexander Robertson of Glasgowewo, rented from the corporation, one acre and one-sixth, at three pounds ten shillings annually, which he trenched, manured, and laid down with grass†, and afterwards let at the yearly rent of ten pounds sterling‡.

In consequence of the success of provost Robertson's experiment, the magistrates were induced to feu off the lands belonging to the community; and we must allow them the merit of having been very active in thus alienating the public property. The following list of subjects feued out by the town of Aberdeen since the year 1747, is extracted from Douglas's "Description" (p. 178), and is presented to the reader as a convincing proof of the magistrates' diligence in disposing of the landed property of the corporation, which has no doubt tended to promote the "common guid." But "besides" this list, "there was a great deal of outfield and barren ground, on the three farms of Gilcomstown, and on the other farms in the freedom, feued out by the town§."

Abstract

\* Douglas's Description of the East Court, p. 156.

† This was the first artificial grass that was raised in the fields in this neighbourhood.

‡ Douglas, p. 157.

§ Ibid. p. 179.

**ABSTRACT of barren ground feued out by the town of  
Aberdeen, since the year 1747**

	<b>Acres.</b>
The lower part of the Stocket, in thirteen lots, at 5s. per acre, supposed to contain about	100
Moor, on the south of Gordon's mills, at 5s. per acre - - - - -	100
Upper part of the Stocket, at an average, at 2s. 6d. ditto. - - - - -	192
Springfield - - - - -	30
Cairncry, at 2s. - - - - -	14
Another lot of ditto, at 5s. - - - - -	16
Barren ground, supposed to have been on the farms of Whitemires and Gillahill - - -	50
To Sir Archibald Grant, and Sir William John- ston, part of which is planted, the rest unim- proved - - - - -	100
The large planted park on the Stocket - - -	82
Barren ground improved on the farms of Ferry- hill and Cooperstown - - - - -	30
On the lands of Pitmuckston - - - - -	20
On the lands of Ruthrieston - - - - -	50
On the lands of Foresterhill - - - - -	78
On Barkmill and Clerkseat - - - - -	10
On Woodside - - - - -	40
On Auchmull - - - - -	45
On Frogball - - - - -	40
On Cotton - - - - -	46
On Rubislaw, some so high as 26s. per acre - -	180

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Carried forward, 1223

				Acres
	-	Brought forward,		1223
On Oldmill	-	-	-	20
On Hazlehead	-	-	-	60
				<hr/>
Total,				1303

The improvement and extension of the city of Aberdeen were reserved for modern times. Marischal-street, Queen-street, and many other streets, have been but lately erected. Union and King streets are not yet finished, and many others are in a similar state (1st August, 1811); but if the spirit for building shall continue unabated for only a few years, the area of the town, as presently lined out, will no doubt be filled up with commodious and elegant houses. Supposing the town and suburbs of Aberdeen, exclusive of Gilcomston, to consist of fifty-three streets and lanes, thirty-seven of these are either new, or of modern erection\*. This calculation evinces the rapid increase of Aberdeen within these few years; but the greater part of these streets have been planned since the year 1801.

An act was passed, 4th April, 1800, "for opening " and making two new streets in the city of Aberdeen." The preamble to this act, sets forth, that " the principal avenues to the central parts of the " town, from the south and north, are narrow, indirect, and incommodious." In consequence of this act, Union and King streets were opened, and the approaches

\* It must be observed, that population has not increased in the same proportion.



approaches to the centre of the town, from the bridges of Dee and Don, are now perfectly distinct, which was by no means the case before this great improvement took place.

By this act, the trustees were empowered to purchase from the proprietors, the houses and lands in the line of the direction of these streets or avenues, to the extent of one hundred and sixty feet in breadth, of which sixty feet are to be appropriated for the street, and fifty on each side, for the areas of the houses. The expense of purchasing the different properties of these streets—the erection of the bridge over the Denburn, and otherwise following out the act—must be defrayed from the sale of the materials of the houses pulled down—the sale of areas—and the annual proceeds of the feus granted as stances for new buildings.

The magistrates and council, as a corporation, have embarked in this undertaking with great ardour, and the sum expended in purchasing the various areas, houses, &c. necessary for this great work, could only be furnished by pledging the funds of the community; and it is supposed, that £100,000 sterling, have been already expended. After the disbursements, however, have been liquidated, the *overplus*, or *profit*, must be paid by the trustees to the treasurer of the town, for the behoof of the community. But, considering the magnitude of the work, and the great expense that has been necessarily incurred, it is probable, the treasurer will not soon have the pleasure of receiving much “surplus” from the trustees. It would be unfair, however,

to estimate the value of an improvement of this kind, by the result of a dull statement of debtor and creditor, which would neither correspond with that ardency of mind which gave birth to the measure, nor, at the present day, answer any useful purpose to the citizens of Aberdeen.

The improvement of the town, by the erection of these streets, and the easy access from the south or the north, to the market-place, are solid and permanent advantages, not only to Aberdeen itself, but to the surrounding country. The projector, therefore, who suggested the plan, and those who have executed it, are equally deserving of our warmest praise, as having greatly contributed to the elegance of the city of Aberdeen.

The population of the two parishes of St. Nicolas and St. Machar, which include the city of Aberdeen, its suburbs, and the Old Town, has greatly increased since the year 1755, the amount then being only 15,730 souls. But an astonishing increase has taken place within these ten years, as evinced by the following comparative list of the number in the years 1801 and 1811.

1801.—*St. Nicolas' Parish*.—Footdee Quarter, 3665.  
—Green Quarter, 2961.—Crooked Quarter, 5727.—  
Even Quarter, 5224.—Absentees, 460.—18,057

*St. Machar* contained - - - 9,911

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27,968

being the total population in the year 1801, of both parishes.

In

In consequence of the late act of parliament, an account of the population of Aberdeen and St. Machar has been taken in the most accurate manner; and the author is happy that he has it in his power to present to the reader, the following statistical table, which shews the rapid increase of the population of Aberdeen, since the year 1801.

Total of Persons.	21,622	13,751	35,380
Females.	12,918	7941	20,860
Males.	8710	5790	14,500
All other Persons, not included in the other two Divisions.	2978	221	3199
Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, and Handycrafts.	3495	2849	6344
Families chiefly employed in Agriculture.	81	589	670
Number of Families.	6555	3659	10,214
Houses Building.	17	20	37
Inhabited Houses.	1895	1784	3679
Uninhabited Houses.	52	95	147
PARISHES.	St. Nicolas, } 1811.	St. Machar, } 1811.	Total,

N. B. The above enumeration does not include sea faring and military men.

## POLICE ACT.

THE most important improvements which have been accomplished in Aberdeen, have originated from the police act. The extension of a town by new buildings is a consequence that naturally follows the increase of population ; but it has been generally questioned, and it is yet problematical, how far it may contribute to the happiness of mankind, to collect them together in great bodies within the precincts of a city. It is a clear position, that the number of people in any state must be regulated entirely by the quantity of subsistence, as the human species will increase or diminish according to the abundance or deficiency of food. If the produce of Great Britain, therefore, be only adequate to the maintenance of its present inhabitants, their happiness cannot be promoted by assembling them into crowded cities, where they are exposed to diseases, arising from corrupted air, and to the pernicious effects of dissipation, proceeding from causes incident to a mixed society, and consequently, are subjected to a greater proportion of human misery than they would otherwise be, if resident in hamlets, or altogether in the country.

In a commercial nation, the conveniency of conducting trade, has drawn great masses of the population of the country to particular spots ; and the mutual support which the two classes of merchants and manufacturers afford to each other, by their combination, and the exchange of their commodities, are the ordinary.

ordinary causes which have produced overgrown cities. Although Aberdeen cannot be considered as a town of the first magnitude, yet there is reason to presume, that it will become so at no distant period ; and therefore, every measure which is calculated to promote the comfort of the citizens, by counteracting the bad effects of a crowded population, must be deemed an improvement of the highest importance.

The original endowments of all the royal boroughs of Scotland; were professedly granted " for the maintenance of honesty and good policie," as the different statutes belonging to them invariably express ; and in the language of these institutions, they are denominated the " common guid" of the borough. But a deficiency of these funds, arising from various causes, rendered it necessary for the inhabitants of Aberdeen to submit to an assessment by authority of parliament, for obtaining " pavement, lamps, and " water."

The object of the police act is sufficiently expressed by its title, being for the " better paving; " lighting, cleansing, and otherwise improving, the " streets, lanes, and other public passages of the city " of ABERDEEN, and the roads and avenues within the " royalty thereof ; for the better supplying the inhabitants with fresh water ; and for removing and " preventing all obstructions and annoyances within " the said city and royalty."

This excellent act took effect on the 1st day of June, 1795, and remains in force for twenty-one years, and thence to the end of the then next session of parliament.

ment. The execution of it has been wisely committed to thirteen commissioners, being resident occupiers, and possessors of dwelling-houses, shops, cellars, &c. of the yearly rent of ten pounds sterling, or upwards. Eight of these commissioners are biennially elected upon the first Tuesday of July, by the whole occupiers and possessors of dwelling-houses, &c. of the rent of five pounds sterling, or upwards, being resident within the royalty of the borough. The other five commissioners are nominated by the thirteen in office, previously to the biennial election, from those eight chosen at the last general meeting; so that the new board of police consists of five of the old commissioners, and eight new members, elected in terms of the act.

The manner of conducting the election is admirable, and worthy of imitation, wherever it is necessary to collect the voice of the people. Those qualified to vote, have only to send in to the court on the day of election, a signed list, containing the names of the eight gentlemen whom they wish to be commissioners for the ensuing two years. These lists are carefully compared, and those persons who have the greatest number of suffrages, are accordingly declared to be duly elected. There is neither noise, bustle, nor confusion, while the election is going on, and the whole business is conducted with the greatest propriety and decorum.

The commissioners of police being thus appointed, they proceed to fulfil the duties of their office, which comprehend almost every thing relative to the economy  
of

of the town, without trenching on the rights or jurisdiction of the magistrates as a corporation, or on the rights and properties of individuals. As the objects of the institution are extensive, the funds required to accomplish the various improvements must be ample, and an assessment accordingly is levied from the occupiers of dwelling-houses, shops, cellars, and other buildings, not exceeding one shilling per pound of annual rent, excepting the houses of paupers and others, under twenty-five shillings yearly, which are exempted, and limiting the largest manufacturing house to the assessment corresponding to fifty pounds of annual rent, however much it may exceed that sum in the rent or value.

In terms of the act, an annual statement of the accounts is made up, exhibited, and published, which contains a clear exposition "of all the monies received and paid, by virtue, or in pursuance of this act, " and for what purposes the same have been laid out, " paid, and expended." To this statement is generally prefixed, an explanatory preface, which illustrates the various items of the accounts, and also shews the necessity of the improvements already accomplished, or of those intended to be pursued.

The contraction of debt was unavoidable, because it was found requisite, in order to give efficacy to the intention of the bill, to expend a greater sum for a few years, than the annual assessment could discharge. But that debt has been gradually reduced, and at present (30th March, 1811), amounts to no more than

L.3591

L.3591 : 0 : 5 sterling, including all unsettled accounts. The following abstract from the last report, will shew the exact amount of the receipt and expenditure, by the board, since its establishment in the year 1795.

**ABSTRACT ACCOUNT of the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE**  
**by the COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE,**  
*From June, 1795, to 30th March, 1811.*

**RECEIPT.**

	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To cash, amount received for assessment - - - - -	16,184	15	4
To cash, ditto ditto for dung	3,289	0	0½
To cash, amount still due on Police Bonds - - - - -	1,000	0	0
To cash, amount due the bank -	1,863	9	5
	<hr/>		
Total Received....	L.22,637	4	9½

**EXPENDITURE.**

	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
By cash paid, expence of obtaining Police Act - - - - -	690	2	6
By cash paid sundries, repairing and paving streets - - - - -	4,447	15	0½
By cash paid, expence on the street lamps - - - - -	7,154	15	6
	<hr/>		
Carried forward,	L.12,292	13	0½

By



	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought forward,	12,292	19	0½
By cash paid, expence on wells and water-course - - - -	2,712	5	0½
By cash paid, ditto of bringing into town, an additional supply of water, by the new cast iron main on the higher course - -	2,130	11	3
By cash paid sundries, interest -	1,435	6	0½
By cash paid sundries, salaries -	1,889	14	7
By cash paid, expence of building the gunpowder magazine, and re- pairs - - - -	325	10	10
By cash paid sundries, for ground ta- ken to widen the streets and lanes - - - -	464	15	7
By cash paid sundry miscellaneous accounts, and petty charges -	654	1	9½
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....</b>	<b>22,604</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>
Cash, Balance in treasurer's hands.....	32	6	7½
	<b>L.22,637</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9½</b>

N. B.—The Floating Debt (including L.1863 9s. 5d., as above, due to the bank, for which the directors consider the commissioners, as representatives of the public, personally bound; and sundry accounts unsettled for oil, lamp-globes, &c. L.727 11s.), is at this date, 30th April, 1811, - L.2,591 0 5

Besides ten bonds, of one hundred pounds each, to be paid in five years - - - - 1,000 0 0

L.3,591 0 5

The

The utility of the board of police is fully evinced, by the extent and variety of the improvements which have been effected since its commencement. All the streets have been repaired, and foot-pavements have been added, and several have been entirely new paved. An abundant supply of water has been brought into the town, which before was extremely deficient, so much so, that the pipes scarcely furnished twenty gallons per minute, while now the supply exceeds a hundred. The number of the lamps has been greatly increased\*; all nuisances have been removed; and the streets are regularly cleaned. These are advantages which highly conduce to the comfort and health of the inhabitants, and have been obtained, through the prudent management of the board, at an expence comparatively trifling. The money collected from the people, is neither wasted in extravagance, nor spent in dissipation, but is faithfully applied to the purposes for which it is intended, in the most judicious and economical manner.—“ During the course of fourteen years, no aid whatever has been received from the public funds. This is contrary to the practice in Perth, Dundee, and other similar burghs in Scotland, where ‘ the common good’ furnishes every article of police, without any assessment on the inhabitants. But where, as in Aberdeen, a professed deficiency in the ordinary funds, obliges the inhabitants to submit to an assessment, ‘ the common good’ should not, in reason, claim a total exemption. The error seems to have

\* Formerly 108 only shewed “ darkness visible,” but now the town is illuminated by 700.

have been in not obtaining from the public funds a fixed, or average, sum annually, included in an explicit clause in the act, instead of an uncertain or optional one, which, while it held out a delusive hope, disappointed all reasonable expectation. This, however, may, and ought to be remedied in any future application to parliament, and both reason and justice require it should be so : for as the direct and proper objects of the public funds are to furnish the articles included in the general term Police, as explained in the act of parliament for Aberdeen, so should they supply a reasonable proportion of these, agreeable to their ability, and original destination. But there are other considerations which press this obligation, connected with good management, more forcibly on the mind. The assessment for police, by a fixed rate, is not the only municipal tax to which the inhabitants of Aberdeen are subjected. While they pay, for this professed purpose, one shilling in the pound, by the same rule they pay fourpence a pound for Commutation Road Money ; fourpence a pound for support of a Bridewell ; Rogue Money ; the King's Subsidy, and other lesser items ; not less collectively, we believe, than two shillings in the pound. These assessments, clear of all taxes to the state, are felt by an industrious population, and furnish an irresistible argument for economical management, strict application, and a distinct and satisfactory exhibition of accounts. It is the least the public have a right to look for from those who manage for them ; and whether the obligation is tacit, or expressed,

D

pressed, it is still binding on all public executors, who act for the community\*."

Evident as are the advantages, and equitable and reasonable as are the principles on which this act was established, yet from the false notions of some of the gentlemen in the council and magistracy at the time, this statute, fraught with so many benefits to the community, was not obtained, without a severe struggle on the part of the citizens. The contest originated from the reluctance of the magistrates and council to yield the management solely into the hands of those who should be chosen commissioners by the inhabitants; and to this was joined, as an aggravating circumstance, a demand for a debt said to have been incurred in bringing into the town in the year 1707, a supply of spring-water, by leaden pipes—maintaining that supply—and improving the means of furnishing nine wells since that time, to the year 1794. This supply was scanty and inadequate, and the fact was acknowledged

\* In the last session of parliament, the town of Perth obtained a police act, by which the revenue of the corporation is included, as forming a considerable portion of the fund for police. The funds of the community, or "common good" are thrown into, or mixed by this act with the common stock of the funds of police; and the corporations of the guild and artificers form, with the magistrates and council, a commission of management. That is, each trade chuses its deacon, and sends him annually, *ex officio*, as a member of council: and one of these seven deacons acts, of course, as a magistrate, or trades' bailie. The whole guildry also elect their dean annually; and the town-council, thus instituted, manage the combined fund of the community and assessment, collectively, furnishing out of it, lamps, payement, watchmen, and constables.

ledged by both the council and the citizens. But, during the whole of this period, the inhabitants had been assessed by the authority of head-courts, for "water, paving the streets, and lighting the public lamps," and of this assessment, the magistrates and council had the exclusive management. A sinking fund for the discharge of the well-debt, as it was called, had been established and increased at different periods since the year 1708; but although these specific sums had been regularly and annually paid into the treasury of Aberdeen, yet the general balance arising from the annual assessment had never been carried to account, as it ought to have been, for the purpose of extinguishing that debt. Under such circumstances, it was not likely that a set of intelligent men, who were fully acquainted with the principles of business, would suffer a demand of more than £3000 sterling, to be drawn, without investigation, from the new fund of assessment to be established by authority of parliament. An inquiry was instituted, therefore, which was committed to gentlemen who certainly conducted it with equal credit to themselves, and advantage to the community. The result was published, with a luminous preface, that explained the whole business in the most satisfactory manner; and it appeared, that the debt, so far from being justly due by the citizens, *was overpaid by several thousand pounds!*

"In looking over the statements," say the citizens in their preface (page 2), "the reader will observe, that no interest is charged upon the balances of money drawn from the citizens, till the year 1759,

" when the debt preceding that period was fully paid,  
 " and a balance remaining, in favour of the commu-  
 " nity, of £51 : 4 : 8½; and it cannot escape notice,  
 " that in the year 1785, to which time the calcula-  
 " tions are brought down, upon the same calculation  
 " of interest by which the council have on their part  
 " been guided, the debt is overpaid by no less a sum  
 " than £4849 ; 16 : 1½; and that by the *recapitula-*  
 " *tion*, page 18, there has been actually sunk in the  
 " treasury from 1709 to 1785, a sum, exclusive of in-  
 " terest, amounting to L.2191 : 15 : 5½. This sum  
 " had been increasing with considerable variation, from  
 " the commencement of the account; but from 1773  
 " till 1779, both years included, it had accumulated  
 " beyond all former precedent, by an increase in that  
 " short period of seven years, of L.1507 : 11 : 9.;"  
 and finally, the whole sum, with interest, amounted,  
 as stated before, to L.4,849 : 16 : 1½ sterling.

Although the citizens were willing to submit to a  
 new assessment for the proposed improvements, yet  
 they were determined to resist the payment of the  
 debt claimed by the magistrates, as well as the at-  
 tempt to deprive them of the right of electing the  
 board of commissioners. In consequence of this re-  
 solution, a committee of citizens, searched the records  
 for the various *items* of the account relative to the al-  
 leged debt, which were published to shew the true  
 state of the case, and to convince Parliament and the  
 public, that how much soever they might be inclined  
 to furnish what was necessary for convenience and  
 comfort, yet they were resolutely bent on resistance  
 to

to every claim that was not founded in equity, and in justice. They had no objection to impute the differences in calculation to an erroneous mode of keeping the public accounts, but they claimed the benefit of the common rule, that "errors should be excepted."

In the meantime, those members of council who would admit of no relaxation or modification of the obnoxious clauses of that police-bill which they had framed, carried the business by petition into the house of commons, supported by nearly a hundred signatures; which the citizens opposed by a petition, subscribed by several thousands. As some of the members of the council, however, were averse to the measure, and desirous that the business should be settled by compromise rather than by contest, a corresponding wish was expressed by the delegates for the citizens, and an attempt accordingly was made to modify the bill, before it should go into parliament.

Mr. Ewen and Mr. Jameson, the delegates for the inhabitants, were invited to a conference in the house of Mr. Allardyce, in London, the then member for the Aberdeen district of boroughs, for the purpose of settling the matter by compromise. The two delegates from the town-council, Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Auldjo, did not appear, and this business, on the part of the magistrates, was left solely to Mr. Allardyce, who opened the conversation by saying, it was his opinion that the bill as it stood, was unexceptionable, and as his instructions were, to carry it through without alteration, he wished, to save all farther trouble, that they would agree to allow it to pass. The deputies replied, that

they could not help expressing extreme surprise at this very strange and unexpected proposal. They were unwilling to aggravate circumstances already sufficiently irritating, by supposing that there was a studied design to insult their constituents; but whatever might be his opinion, or that of the council, yet as upwards of three thousand of the inhabitants of Aberdeen had said, in a petition to parliament, then on the table of the house of commons, that "it was a bad bill," and that, as they themselves entertained precisely the same sentiments, they could not, in pure complaisance, and in a matter of such importance, alter their opinion. There were many clauses in the bill of which the inhabitants approved, but none more than that which fixed the rate of assessment; and, added they, "blot out the well-debt, long since overpaid, and give the choice of the commissioners to the inhabitants, and they will cordially unite with you in a petition to parliament that the bill may pass into a law.—To this we pledge ourselves, on the part of the citizens." Mr. Allardyce answered, that he was sorry to say, he had no power to alter or modify, and that as his instructions were to press the passing of the bill in its then shape, he hoped no blame would be imputed to him in resisting the wishes of the citizens\*.

Unfortunately

\* It is a melancholy fact, that the members for Scotch boroughs, in general, consider themselves to be merely the representatives of the town's council, and not the representatives of the citizens at large; which they really ought to be, according to the constitution of parliament. This perversion of sentiment originates



Unfortunately these very reasonable proposals by the delegates for the citizens, were not acceded to by the gentlemen who were sent to London by the magistrates and council; and although the bill was successfully opposed in parliament during the session of 1794, it was attended with an expence to the citizens, of £.1000 sterling. In the interval, however, between that period and the next session of parliament, better sentiments prevailed, and the moderation of the majority of the council manifested itself by uniting with the committee of the citizens in compromising the objectionable clauses. The claim for the well debt was relinquished, and no farther opposition was made to the citizens having the free election of the commissioners.

To expunge the well-debt was no more than an act of material justice; and there certainly was equity, wisdom, and propriety, in vesting the management of a fund drawn from the pockets of the citizens, in a body of commissioners chosen solely by themselves, who were to render, as they have done, an exhibition of all their transactions in an annual printed account, as well as to give free access to the documents and books on which it is founded. The experience of sixteen years proves the superior excellence of the establishment, beyond the possibility of cavil; during which time, the board have not cost the public one penny in personal expences.

The magistrates in every large town have, in their  
judicial  
ginates from the wretched system of borough-government, and  
the defective mode of electing the members of parliament.

judicial capacity, in the present state of society, sufficient occupation in administering justice, and suppressing crimes. In Aberdeen, there is no less business of this kind than in other towns, and, under every circumstance, it appears strange, that the magistrates should have courted so much additional trouble as must naturally arise from the proper management of the funds under the police act.

Thus terminated a severe struggle between the magistrates and the people, who, by asserting their rights and privileges, have secured to themselves all the advantages of an economical and well conducted system of police. And as this act will expire in a few years, it is to be hoped that they will take care to renew it with enlarged powers, that its usefulness may be still farther extended.—While speaking of the police of Aberdeen, it may not be impertinent to remark, that the inhabitants have severely felt the want of regular city-watchmen, and patrols, to protect their property, and to secure the peace of the town. The funds of the corporation, under the management of the magistrates, it is to be presumed, are competent to this business, without any new assessment on the citizens. But if this shall really not be the case, they have only to publish annually a statement of their accounts, in imitation of the board of police, and which indeed it is their duty to do, and there can be no doubt but that the good sense of the citizens of Aberdeen would induce them to give liberal support to the measures of the magistrates and council.

In every view of this subject, there is manifest propriety

priety in leaving the whole of that establishment which relates to the public peace, and protection of the community at large—to the prevention and punishment of crimes, by a vigilant and active police of constables and watchmen—under the exclusive management of the magistracy, so as to prevent all involution, and jostling of jurisdiction. The erection of a bridewell, already built on an excellent scale and enlarged plan, to the expence of which the inhabitants contribute liberally by a parliamentary assessment, renders the propriety of this more peculiarly evident; nor is it less obvious, that the management of lamps, pavement, and water, should remain as it is, in a board of commissioners chosen by the inhabitants.

### HARBOUR.

THE harbour of Aberdeen, from being much exposed to the north-east wind, and terminating a long extent of sandy coast, is liable to be blocked up to a certain extent, or, in other words, a bar is formed, that prevents the entrance of ships of large dimensions. To preserve the commerce of the town, the citizens have been ever anxious to diminish the bar by every expedient in their power, and also to render the harbour more commodious, by deepening and cleansing it.

An act was accordingly obtained in 1773, for  
“ deepening, cleansing, and making more commodi-  
“ ous, the harbour of Aberdeen; for erecting new  
“ piers and quays therein; and for regulating ships  
“ and

“ and vessels standing into, and going out of, the said  
“ harbour.”

The magistrates and city-council for the time being, are appointed trustees for putting this act in execution, and are empowered to collect certain additional dues on all goods exported and imported, and also, a certain tonnage duty on all ships, vessels, boats, &c.\* either going out or coming into the harbour, for enabling them to effectuate the object of the act, which remained in force for twenty-one years, and thence to the end of the then next session of parliament.

In consequence of this act, the new pier was erected, which is a noble monument of the spirit, enterprise, and opulence of the town. In the year 1795, another act was passed, “ to continue the term, and  
“ alter and enlarge the powers” of the former act, which states in the preamble, that “ considerable  
“ progress has been made in making the works, and  
“ executing the powers by the said act given and  
“ granted, more particularly, in building at a great  
“ expence a principal north pier at the entrance of  
“ the said harbour, and other smaller piers adjacent;  
“ and sundry sums of money have been borrowed and  
“ expended for those purposes; but the said harbour  
“ and piers cannot be kept in repair, nor many useful  
“ and essential improvements in the said harbour completed, unless the term of the said act be further continued  
“

\* Open boats, under twenty tons, coming into the harbour, are exempted, except boats employed in unloading vessels in the bay of Aberdeen.

"tinued and enlarged, and some alterations made in the said act."

Under the authority of this act, the magistrates have carried on various operations with the view to improve the harbour. But they thought it expedient to apply for a new statute to enlarge these powers, that they might accomplish a still more extensive plan of improvement, which had been suggested from the inefficacy of their attempts to remove the bar, and also, from the want of "wet docks, and graving, or dry docks," which the extended trade of Aberdeen now required.

The preamble to this act (granted 18th May, 1810), sets forth the particular object of it, which is to empower the magistrates and city-council to borrow a larger sum of money than is mentioned in the preceding acts, and to increase the rates and duties on ships and goods, that they may be enabled to execute certain improvements exhibited on a plan by Mr. Thomas Telford, civil engineer. They are accordingly authorised to make new piers, docks, and other improvements, in correspondence with Mr. Telford's map; one copy of which must be placed in the hands of the sheriff-clerk, and another must remain with the magistrates and city-council.

This act took effect on the 1st day of July, 1810, and is to continue for the space of twenty-one years, and until the end of the then next session of parliament.

The rate of duty on all goods, merchandize, &c. loaded or unloaded at the port of Aberdeen, is fixed at  
*three*

*three-pence sterling, for every barrel-bulk; but on such commodities as are not charged by the barrel-bulk, the rate chargeable is regulated by the table subjoined\*.*—(*See at the end of this article.*)

The tonnage duty is declared to be on “all ships, vessels, barks, boats, and lighters, registered at the port of Aberdeēn, one penny per ton.”——“All ships, and other vessels, belonging to British subjects, not registered at the port of Aberdeen, one penny, and one-third part of a penny per ton;”——“And all ships, and other vessels, belonging to aliens, or persons who are not British subjects, and loading or unloading within the said harbour, one shilling and twopence per ton.” There is also an anchorage duty of one penny per ton charged on vessels which enter the harbour either by stress of weather, wind-bound, or otherwise, and not loading or unloading.

These duties on ships and goods constitute the fund for accomplishing the projected improvements; and on the security of them, the trustees are empowered to borrow any sum, not exceeding, at any one time, one hundred and forty thousand pounds sterling.

That the citizens of Aberdeen may have some knowledge of the manner in which so great a sum may have been expended, it is enacted, “that an account of all the monies which shall be borrowed, and duties and other funds, which shall be levied or raised under,  
“ or

\* This rate of dues applies only to burgesses of guild, and the freemen of the incorporated trades: others must pay one-third more.

“ or by virtue of this act, and also of all the monies  
“ which shall be expended by the said magistrates  
“ and city-council of Aberdeen,” in completing the  
works, shall be kept separate from the other transac-  
tions of the corporation. The accounts must be sub-  
mitted at Michaelmas yearly, to be audited and com-  
pared with the vouchers, to a committee of seven per-  
sons, viz. the sheriff-depute, the convener of the  
county, the president of the society of advocates, the  
president of the society of shipmasters, the president  
of the police-board, and two burgesses of guild. This  
committee is authorised to attend to the application of  
the money, and to challenge any article of expendi-  
ture that it may deem objectionable, “ which shall  
“ not afterwards be brought forward in the said ac-  
“ counts.”

This great undertaking excited much discussion  
when first agitated, and the bill was keenly opposed  
by a numerous and respectable body of citizens. The  
heavy rate of shore-dues alarmed many of the mer-  
chants and ship-owners, who seriously feared that a  
lasting burden would be entailed upon the trade of  
the town, without the accomplishment of any bene-  
ficial object. The known respectability of those gen-  
tlemen who resisted the passing of the act, sufficiently  
authorises the conclusion, that, in their opposition,  
they were actuated by the full conviction that the  
scheme was either not expedient, or would prove  
fruitless. We cannot suppose, that men of sound  
sense, and unimpeachable character, would wantonly  
object to a plan of improvement which they thought  
practicable,

practicable, and of real utility to the community. But on the other hand, it must be admitted, that those gentlemen who compose the magistracy and council, and also their supporters in this measure, are not inferior either in talents or in integrity to their opponents, and in justice, they deserve equal credit for the purity of their principles.

It was to be expected, indeed, that a contrariety of opinion should be entertained regarding a measure of such magnitude, and which involved consequences so important. But while both parties are acquitted of any sinister motive as influencing their conduct, it must be acknowledged, that the scheme is still of doubtful result. The opinions of the engineers, Telford and Jessop, are the sole basis on which the hopes of those who projected the work, and supported the bill, are founded. But unfortunately, other engineers of equal eminence, have expressed an opposite opinion, and by a contradiction in evidence, the matter is left in great uncertainty, and can only be determined by experiment. It is an admitted position, that the bar may be cleared away by a strong current of water, but the interior exertions are calculated to diminish the quantity of water which usually flows into the basin, and therefore, the force of the eflux water, when the tide retires, will be lessened, and consequently, the acting power of the current will be diminished. On the other hand, it may be argued, that the contraction of the water by the extension of piers, will occasion a stronger current than previously existed, so much so indeed, as to do more than counterbalance any bad effect



effect that may arise from the diminution of the quantity of water in the basin, and thus the bar may be removed to a greater distance from the mouth of the river. But arguments were not wanting on either side, although extremely unimportant in a question that can only be determined by experiment.

Although unanimity had prevailed in the town as to the expediency of the harbour improvements, yet there was an unsettled point subsisting between the magistrates and citizens. The mode of managing the funds, became the subject of contention. "The inhabitants opposing the bill, proposed, that the management of the funds to be raised for new improvements, should be vested in the hands of commissioners, of whom *two-thirds* should be burgesses, and one-third only of the town-council\*." The people of Aberdeen had experienced the good effect of placing the management of the police into the hands of a committee, or board of private citizens; and they naturally wished to have this great work conducted in a similar manner. But the magistrates strongly resisted this reasonable proposition, which was certainly calculated to relieve them from much trouble. But whatever may have been the motives which induced the magistrates to reject this proposal, they certainly successfully exerted themselves to retain the management of the funds in their own hands.

The work has already commenced, and is carrying forward with the greatest activity, which is highly to the

\* Papers relative to the proposed improvements, &c. p. xxi.

the credit of all concerned in the undertaking ; and every man who is interested in the prosperity of Aberdeen must wish it success. The grandeur of the whole plan of "harbour improvements" naturally prepos-  
 seses the mind in its favour, and as it is sanctioned by the skill and experience of at least two professional and scientific men, there is strong reason to presume, that it will ultimately meet the sanguine expectations of its projectors, and that this city will have great cause to bestow commendation on those who have promoted the measure.

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**SCHEDULE of the rate of Dues on Goods not charge-  
 able by the Barrel-bulk.**

	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
LIME and coals, per chalder - -	0	0	8
Beer, malt, oats, wheat, rye, and all other kinds of grain, per chalder - -	0	1	4
Salt, per 20 bolls - - - -	0	2	0
Onions and apples in bulk, per four bushels	0	0	4½
Bark, per chalder - - - -	0	1	4
Meal, per ditto - - - -	0	1	0

The above articles, which were formerly liable in payment, either in syce holls, or Saint Nicholas metts, are to pay in place thereof, during the continuance of this act, as follows (besides the above shore dues),

Lime, per boll, two-fifths of a penny.			
Coals, per boll - - - -	0	0	0½

Bear,

	L.	s.	d.
Bear, malt, oats, wheat, rye, and all other kinds of grain, per boll, two-thirds of a penny.			
Salt, per boll	0	0	1
Onions and apples, per four bushels	0	0	3
Bark, per boll	0	0	1
Meal, per boll, two-thirds of a penny.			
Pantiles, per 1000	0	1	0
Bricks, per 1000	0	0	6
Iron, per ton	0	1	6
Salmon and herring barrels, empty, per 32 gallons English	0	0	1½
Salmon barrels packed, and herring barrels packed with pork, beef, or fish, per ditto ditto	0	0	3
Slates, per 1000	0	1	4
All (stones except as under) per L.100 sterling of the value at shipping and unshipping	3	0	0
Causeway or carriageway stones, per ton (except pebble stones),	0	0	2½
Causeway pebble stones, per ton	0	0	2
Pavement, crib, and building stones, per ton	0	0	5
Foreign grave stones, each	0	9	0
Scots do. each	0	6	0
Grind stones, per ton	0	6	0
Turin, or other flag stones, per 20 square feet	0	0	4

	L.	s.	d.
Mill stones, each - - - -	0	2	0
Wald, per last of 1000 weight - - -	0	3	0
Horns in bulk, per 1000 - - - -	0	1	6
Plaister hair, per ton - - - -	0	3	4
Ox, cow, and horse hides in the hair, whether wet or dry, each - - -	0	0	0½
Scrows of ox and cow, or other hides, per ton - - - - -	0	4	0
Potters clay and fire clay, and dung, per ton - - - - -	0	0	4
Coopers staves, five per cent. of the value, as hitherto in use to be ascertained within the harbour.			

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## CHAPTER. III.

### CONTENTS.

[TOWN-HOUSE, PRISON, AND MASON-LODGE—CROSS AND EXCHANGE—POOR'S HOSPITAL—MARISCHAL COLLEGE—GRAMMAR SCHOOL—GORDON'S HOSPITAL—INFIRMARY—LUNATIC ASYLUM—MITCHELL'S HOSPITAL—CHARITIES—AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.]

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**H**AVING concisely stated the different acts for the improvement of the city of Aberdeen, it may be proper, in this place, to take notice of the principal buildings erected; either for public use, or for the purposes of humanity; with a brief view of the nature of the charitable institutions.

*Town-House, Prison, and Mason-Lodge.*—These form one building, situated on the west side of Castle-street. The town-house is the west wing; the mason-lodge, the east; and an old square tower in the centre, contains the prisons. The fronts of the wings are.

are uniform. The battlement of the tower is fifty feet above the street, and an elegant spire rises nearly seventy feet more, which is covered with lead, and ornamented. The weathercock is exactly 120 feet above the level of the street\*. The ground-flat of the town-house is let for shops. In the first storey there is a large room, where the magistrates and council hold their meetings, and also the clerks' chamber; and adjoining to the tower, there is another room, where one of the bailies sits to try petty differences, and here also, the justiciary-court is held twice a-year. In the second storey, is the town-hall, which is a well proportioned room, forty-six feet eight inches long, twenty-nine feet broad, and eighteen feet high in the roof. In the garret-storey is the armoury of the town, containing three to four hundred muskets. In this place, is deposited the flag-staff of the colours which the town's men displayed at the battle of Harlaw in 1411, where provost Davidson was killed. The bridle and crupper of his horse, in that engagement, are also exhibited to the lovers of relics, with a horseman's coat of mail, and the *heading* part of the Scottish guillotine, better known by the name of the *maiden*, which constitute the whole of the curious articles in the armoury of Aberdeen.

The town-records, and the clerk's registers, are kept in a small but neat room above the gateway, in the west wing of the building†.

The

\* Douglas's Description, p. 94.

† Every thing in this office is arranged in the most distinct manner.

The mason-lodge is occupied as a tavern, or hotel, and is presently possessed by Mr. Cleugh, who keeps it in a stile of elegance exceeded by none in the kingdom: at the same time, his charges for entertainment are as moderate as anywhere else in Scotland.

The prisons in the square tower, are wretched vaults. The best apartment, called the "Burgher's Room," is only thirteen feet and a half by eleven, and it frequently contains eight or ten unfortunate men. It is a heavy reproach to the inhabitants of this city that they have not long ago built decent places for the accommodation of those of their fellow men who have the misfortune to be deprived of their liberty, especially when they have expended so much money in works of ornament and grandeur. The feelings of humanity ought to precede the passion of vanity, and utility is of more importance than shew or splendour. —It is, however, in agitation to remove this grievance by the erection of new prisons, which will no doubt be built and fitted up in a manner corresponding to the other great improvements which have taken place in Aberdeen.

*Cross and Exchange.*—These are situated opposite to the town-house. "The first is a sexagon stone  
" building,

manner. The different sorts of deeds are lodged in separate presses, which are locked; and any man, with the assistance of the key, unless he were blind, can have no difficulty in finding any paper he may want, as the presses are distinguished by the appropriate names of their contents, which are all rightly spelled, and in legible characters.

“ building, twenty-one yards in circumference at top,  
 “ and seventeen feet high in the walls, which project  
 “ a little for about four feet downwards. Under this  
 “ circular projection, the wall has mock arches and  
 “ pilasters, from which rise a row of handsome Ionic  
 “ columns, on an Attic base\*.” It is arched at the top  
 three feet nine inches lower than the side walls. From  
 the centre springs a Corinthian column twelve feet six  
 inches high, which has an unicorn-rampant at top†.  
 John Montgomery, a country mason, was the archi-  
 tect of this work, which he built in the year 1686, and  
 for which he received a hundred pounds sterling, free  
 of carriages‡. This erection is neither useful nor or-  
 namental.

The exchange is a pavement of granite, squared  
 and smoothed, eighty-four feet in length, and fifty-  
 seven in breadth, raised two steps above the street, and  
 terminated on the east by the cross§. This piece of  
 pavement was laid by order of the magistrates, in the  
 year 1751; and it was formerly the general place of  
 resort for the gentlemen of the town; but it has long  
 ceased to be a rendezvous for the genteeler people, and  
 is now principally occupied by sailors and soldiers||.

*Aberdeen*

\* Douglas, p. 93.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid. p. 94.

§ Ibid.

|| The fashionable resort now, is the pavement on the east ex-  
 tremity of the left side of Union-street, where the gentlemen of  
 the town assemble for conversation, and have also the opportu-  
 nity of reading the titles of new publications in the shop of a  
 bookseller.



*Aberdeen Bank.*—This is a very handsome building, from a plan by Mr. James Burn, architect in Haddington, and was erected about twelve years ago. It is situated on the south side of Castle-street, opposite to the cross.

*Record Office.*—At the east extremity of the street is the register office, which was erected by subscription. It is a plain building, and although convenient enough for the purpose for which it was intended, it possesses nothing ornamental to recommend it to the notice of the stranger.

*Poor's Hospital.*—" Behind the town-house there is a large building appropriated for the reception of the aged poor, in which also many destitute children are maintained and educated." This excellent institution is supported by funds allocated by the town-council and church-session, by voluntary donations, and quarterly collections at the doors of the churches and meeting-houses.

*Marischal College*—is situated on the east side of Broad-street, with a large area before it. It consists of a principal building, and two wings at right angles. It was partly built in the former century, and partly in the last. The new building forms the east wing, and on the ground-floor has the private schools for the several classes, except the Greek class, which meets in the west wing. The two upper storeys are occupied as dwelling-houses, by the two senior professors. The  
ground-

ground-floor of the centre part of the building, is the public school; and on the first floor is the common hall, seventy-nine feet long, twenty-two broad, and fourteen feet high in the roof. Above this hall is the public library, which contains a great collection of books, arranged according to the subjects of which they treat. In the west end of the building are the common stair-case, the lobby to the hall, the apartment where the theological class is taught, and lodgings for one of the professors.

*Grammar School.*—This useful seminary is situated in "School-hill," west from St. Nicholas' church. It is a neat modern building, of one storey, forming three sides of a square, with an inclosed area. The school is under the direction of a rector, and three assistant teachers. The fees paid by scholars are seven shillings and sixpence per quarter; and the number of boys generally attending this school amount to two hundred and fifty, who are divided into five classes. The teacher who begins the first class carries them on for three years, when they enter the fourth class, which, with the fifth, is under the immediate tuition of the rector. All the gentlemen are excellent teachers, and to the honour of one of the masters\*, a hundred boys entered to his class when he opened it last autumn.

There are large endowments for the support of the teachers of this seminary; but by some means or other, they have not been able to obtain possession of them: and their salaries are trifling, or, at any rate, far

\* Mr. Nicol.

far from being a sufficient remuneration for the trouble they bestow, or an adequate compensation for the value of the instruction they communicate.

The following information is all that the author has had it in his power to collect, relative to the extent and application of the endowments which have been made to this seminary.

About the year 1614, Dr. Cargil mortified to the grammar-school of Aberdeen, 1000 merks. Dr. Patrick Dun also mortified 500 merks for the support of a doctor in the school. But this gentleman bestowed a munificent grant, and on the 16th April, 1634, mortified the lands of *Ferry-hill*, for the maintenance "al-  
"lenarly" of four masters, appointing the yearly rent to be laid out on interest, until it should accumulate to such a sum as would purchase land of the annual value of 600 merks; and the magistrates were nominated trustees for the management of this fund after his demise.

Accordingly, Dr. Dun's executors, 15th January, 1653, delivered to the magistrates the writs relative to *Ferry-hill*, and also a bond for 1000 merks, which, with that year's rent of *Ferry-hill*, made, with interest at six per cent., 1660 merks; so that the magistrates had now received for the benefit of the grammar-school, in all 3160 merks, exclusive of the lands of *Ferry-hill*.

In the year 1666, the magistrates declared the mortification to have *accrued* to the sum required by the deed for accomplishing Dr. Dun's intentions, that is to say, to have amounted to as much as would purchase  
lands

lands, producing 600 merks annually. They did not, however, at that time, invest it in landed property, but lent out the money chiefly to the members of the corporation, such as provost Gray, P. Petrie of Portlethen, bailies Alexander, Robert and George Melvill, and J. Anderson, who all became insolvent. But there still remained, in 1666, of money lent on interest 7054½ merks, according to a statement made up at Michaelmas that year, and 3442 merks in the hands of the master of mortifications, not bearing interest; so that the fund still amounted to 10,496½ merks.

In the year 1677, the magistrates bought the lands of Gilcomston for L.17,666:13:4 Scots, or L.1472 4s. 5d. sterling; and the funds belonging to the masters of the grammar-school were invested in this purchase, in terms of Dr. Dun's mortification, as declared by act of council, dated the 31st July, 1678.

It appears that the funds of some other mortifications had been added to Dr. Dun's, to enable the magistrates to purchase the lands of Gilcomston, and the disposition was granted to the master of mortifications; but the magistrates wished to make a transfer from him to the town's treasurer, that the property might be vested in the corporation. It was therefore enacted by the council, 28th May, 1679, that the disposition of the lands of Gilcomston should be in the treasurer's name for the town's behoof; that the disposition granted by *Pitfoddles* (from whom the lands were bought) to the master of mortifications, should be *cancelled*, and one made out in favour of the town's treasurer, he giving security

security for the sums advanced by the master of mortifications.

It would not be easy at this distance of time to discover the real motives which induced the magistrates to order this transference; but it is presumable, that the lands of Gilcomston had been thought an advantageous bargain, and that it would be as well the profit should go into the town's treasury as into the pockets of the masters of the grammar-school. By this transaction, however, Dr. Dun's confidence was abused, and the masters were the sufferers.

The lands of Ferry-hill were held in lease from the year 1630 to 1750, at the annual rent of 600 merks; but the magistrates bought up the lease for an annuity to the tenant of L.60 sterling, during his life, which was paid only for one or two years. Previously to the year 1754, the lands of Ferry-hill were all feued out at L.164 sterling annually, besides a *grassum*, or purchase-price, amounting to L.977 sterling. At this time, the town's treasurer was owing, by bond, to the mortification, L.5128 Scots, or L.427 : 7 : 2½ sterling.

The account, therefore, at this time, between the masters of the school, and the magistrates, seems to have stood thus, viz. L.1404 : 7 : 2 sterling, in the treasurer's hands, which at five per cent. produced annually L.70 4s. To this must be added, the feu-duty of Ferry-hill, L.164 sterling, making in all L.234 4s. sterling yearly, to which the masters were justly entitled.

About the year 1753, the masters of the grammar-school applied to the magistrates for an augmentation of their salaries, by petition, on which a deliverance

was given to the following effect: "The council having again considered the petition of the masters of the grammar-school, agree, that the head master shall be augmented 400 merks, and each of the under masters 200 merks, which sums shall be in full of all they can or ever shall ask of salary during their incumbency." As this offer was not agreeable to the masters, they renewed their petitions, when it was finally settled between them and the magistrates, that the matter should be referred to arbiters. Accordingly a decret-arbitral was pronounced as follows: "We, &c. having, according to the power given us by said submission, met with the parties submitters, and having heard, seen, and considered, the claim made by the said masters for an augmentation of their salaries, and likewise the answer made to the foresaid claim, with Dr. Dun's deed of mortification, with the claim made by the treasurer of Aberdeen for monies advanced by former treasurers for making the doctor's salaries, when the mortification could not bear the same, &c.—do, in one voice, pronounce our decret-arbitral, in manner following:

"We find, that from and after the death of William Moir, the masters are entitled to L.1908 Scots, or L.164 sterling, which sum we find to be the free feu-duties of Ferry-hill yearly, in full of all they can lay claim to during their incumbencies.

"Item: In regard that for many years past, the treasurers in Aberdeen have been obliged to pay to the doctors of said school, part of their salaries, be-

"cause

“ cause the mortification was not in a condition to answer the same: therefore, in recompense for the same, we ordain the bond granted by the treasurer for L.5128 Scots (L.427 : 7 : 2½ sterling), to be *cancelled and extinguished*.

“ Item: We find, that the hail other funds belonging to the mortification, ought to be reserved by the magistrates, as patrons, to be by them applied to the *building a convenient school-house*, and for a fund for supporting the same in the first place, and afterwards, for defraying the expences of management, and making up to the masters *deficiencies of said feu-duties*.

“ Item: We find, that when any casualties happen by entfy of vassals, either as heirs, or singular successors, these ought to be applied by the magistrates for indemnifying them for *any pre-advances* of the said masters additional salaries, or otherwise.—And this we declare to be our decret-arbitral.”

It evidently appears from the whole of the above statement, that Dr. Dun's intentions had not been fulfilled by the magistrates, and that his mortification had been improperly applied. When the lands of Gilcomston were purchased by Dr. Dun's money, and the disposition taken in the name of the master of mortifications, these lands became the property of the doctors of the school, in terms of Dr. Dun's deed of settlement, and were therefore inalienable. It was highly improper, if not unwarrantable, to assign the lands of Gilcomston to the treasurer of the town, and thus to constitute the mortification only a personal debt against

the corporation. It was a direct infringement of the deed, and it also deprived the masters of any advantage of the rise of landed property.

The arbiters seem to have established a new rule for the application of the funds, and to have taken no notice of the unfair transference of Gilcomston, the increased value of which, since the year 1679, ought to have been stated in opposition to the magistrates' claims for advances, which were partly made previously to the existence of the mortification.

As a corporation never dies, and Dr. Dun's settlement still remains in full force, the masters of the grammar-school, in justice, and probably, in law, may claim the lands of Gilcomston as a matter of right. At any rate, there can be no doubt that they are entitled to the full proceeds of the funds without deduction, as the deed expressly declares the mortification to be for the *maintenance* of the four masters.

Dr. Dun was a native of Aberdeen, and principal of Marischal College. The deed of conveyance is entitled, "Mortification, Doctour Patrick Dune, of the lands of Ferriehill to the toune of Aberdeine, for maintenance of four masters to ther grammar-school, 16th Aprill, 1634." On this day, the doctor appeared before the provost, bailies, and council of the borough, and gave into their hands a copy of his deed of mortification, extracted from the records of the lords of session, in which it had been registered on the 18th July, 1633. He requested that it might be recorded in the town's books, "therein to remain, *ad futuram rei memoriam*;" and it was accepted accordingly, with expres-



sions of thanks by the magistrates and council. In such deeds, there are always specific regulations laid down for the management and application of the fund, which become binding with all the force of an entail, or, in other words, the obligations must be strictly fulfilled.

In this deed, the conditions are particularly narrated, and the application of the fund is distinctly declared, so that no man of common sense could mistake its meaning.—“ And now,” says Dr. Dun, “ because I  
“ am fully resolved anent the *forme* and *manner* of the  
“ mortifying of the saids lands and teinds,” meaning Ferriehill, “ and to what *particular use* the samen  
“ shall be mortified and destinat ; therefore I, by thir  
“ presents declare, and mak manifest and knowne my  
“ will thereanent, to be *for maintenance of four mais-*  
“ *ters* within the grammar-school of the said burgh of  
“ Aberdeen, perpetuallie in all time cumeing, in form,  
“ substance, and effect, after-following, and upon the  
“ conditions, provisions, and limitations underwritten,  
“ and *no otherwise*.”

The purpose of this mortification is also farther declared by the following passage, viz. “ To the honour  
“ of ALMIGHTY GOD, and for the benefit of kirk and  
“ commonwealth, wit ye me to have freely given,  
“ granted, destinat, and perpetuallie mortified, to the  
“ provost, bailies, council, and communitie thereof, in  
“ all time cuming, and to their successors, provost,  
“ bailies, council, and communitie, for *maintenance of*  
“ *the said four masters of the grammar-school, in man-*  
“ *ner*

\* Printed copy by A. Inlay & Co. printers, Aberdeen, p. 3.

“ ner, and upon the conditions underwritten, *allenary,*  
 “ *and no otherwise:* All and hail, the foresaid townes  
 “ and lands of Ferriehill, with,” &c. &c. &c.\*; which  
 are accordingly conveyed to the “ provost, bailies,  
 “ and councill of the said burgh for ever, to the use,  
 “ and for maintenance and entertainment of four mas-  
 “ ters within the grammar-school of the said burgh of  
 “ Aberdeine, perpetuallie, in all time cumeing, pro-  
 “ portionallie amongst them, *with the conditions, pro-*  
 “ *visions, and limitations, as is after mentioned, and no*  
 “ *otherways,*” viz. “ I ordayne the yeirlye duetie of  
 “ these lands, milne, and others, to be uplifted and  
 “ laid upon bank ay and whill the same grow and accresce  
 “ to such ane sume of money as may buy and conquest so  
 “ meikle lands, well holden, and commodiously lying, as  
 “ will render and pay six hundreth merkes, Scotis  
 “ money, of yeirlye frie rent, making in all, with the  
 “ present rent of the saids lands and milne of Ferrie-  
 “ hill, the soume of twelve hundred merkes yerlie.”

The magistrates of Aberdeen did accordingly lay  
 out the money at interest, until it *accresced* to 12,000  
 merks, which they declared to be the case on the 14th  
 July, 1666; and they applied it, to the extent of  
 10,000 merks, to the purchase of the lapds of Gilcom-  
 stone: for, in an act of council, dated the 31st July,  
 1678, relative to the debts of the corporation, it is said;  
 “ As also the burgh is resting (owing) of principal  
 “ sum to Dr. Dun’s mortification, L.1666:13:4,  
 “ which behoved to be paid at Whitsunday: *For con-*  
 “ *form*

“ form to the mortification, there was settled upon land,  
“ 10,000 merks for the use of the undermasters” [it should  
have been masters], “ of the grammar-school, and that  
“ sum was one part of the price of the land, as said is.”

In so far, the magistrates acted according to the conditions of Dr. Dun's settlement; that is to say, they invested 10,000 merks in land, to which the master of mortifications obtained a disposition from the seller; and the doctors of the grammar-school became virtually annuitants of a corresponding proportion of the lands of Gilcomston, which were the property purchased; and they could not legally, or, in justice, be deprived of their right. The transference of their part of the lands to the town-treasurer, which took place in 1679, was therefore an infringement of the conditions of Dr. Dun's mortification, and a direct breach of a deed properly constituted by a royal charter of confirmation, and all the formalities of law.

The decret-arbitral pronounced by Messrs. Turner, the sheriff-clerk, and Thomson, the town's consultant, is completely ridiculous, and also a violation of the deed of settlement, because they establish a mode of disposing of the fund altogether unauthorised. They were bound by the terms of the deed, and no other; but there is not a word in it that implies any application different from the maintenance of the four masters. The mortification was intended, and it is sufficiently declared to be, *salaries to the teachers*, no part of which could be expended in “ *building a convenient school-house,*” or to any other purpose, than merely to maintain the four masters, who are strictly prohibited

prohibited from taking higher fees than “ thretteine  
 “ schillings four pennies, Scots money,” quarterly,  
 from each scholar, “ unless he be the son of a marquis,  
 “ earl, viscount, lord, or baron\*.”

If this mortification had been managed in a proper  
 manner, or rather, if it had not been grossly abused,  
 the salaries of the teachers might have amounted to  
 something so very considerable, perhaps, to several  
 hundred pounds to each, that the means of education  
 would have been accessible to the lower classes of the  
 town and neighbourhood of Aberdeen. But it is ex-  
 pressly declared, that “ *whatsomever scholar, comeing*  
 “ *to the grammar-school, and bringing with him ane*  
 “ *testimonial, subscribed be honest and famous men,*  
 “ *declaring his povertie, or the povertie of his parents,*  
 “ *shall be teached gratis.*” Those of the name of Dun  
 are also entitled to be taught gratis, “ *whatsomever*  
 “ *rank or condition they be ;*” and likewise, “ the  
 “ *whole tennents sones of the saids lands of Ferrie-*  
 “ *hill, and haill remanent lands to be conquest for the*  
 “ *use foresaid, to be teached gratis perpetuallie in all*  
 “ *tyme comeing†.*”

The mismanagement of Dr. Dun's mortification,  
 therefore, has not only affected the interest of the four  
 masters, but it has deeply injured that of thousands,  
 who might have attended this seminary in virtue of the  
 charitable intentions of the donor. The diffusion of  
 education among the lower ranks of society is of the  
 greatest national importance. The enlargement of  
 knowledge,

\* Printed Copy, p. 7.

† P. 7, 8.

knowledge, and the consequent expansion of intellect, will ever make men wiser and better. The great concern of mankind is the *means* of securing their happiness in this world, and in that which is to come ; and the duties we have to perform, must be understood before they can be practised. Education enables us to discover the extent of our obligations, as they are contained in the theory of moral science, of which we acquire a knowledge by reading, studying, and reflecting. The difference between the unlettered savage, and the man of education, is, that the one has nothing to guide him, but his own limited experience ; while the other derives information from the experience of preceding generations, and thus amasses a stock of knowledge that can be immediately applied to every incident in human life.

The advantage of education to every member of the society, requires no illustration ; but it is of more importance to the poor man than to the rich, as in the career of life, it is necessary for him to counterbalance the influence of the opulent by knowledge, which conveys power. In a national point of view, it is also of the utmost consequence to educate the lower classes of the community, as they will then be qualified for a greater number of employments—to the increase of the comforts and conveniencies of the whole society ; and frequently, extraordinary talents have been rescued from oblivion by means of education, which certainly fixes in the mind many valuable principles of religion, morals, and politics.

The

The injury sustained by the public, and particularly by the citizens of Aberdeen, from the mismanagement of Dr. Dun's mortification, is sufficiently apparent; and the turpitude of the crime cannot be palliated by any plea of ignorance, as, independently of the strict and explicit terms of the deed, the moral obligation to do justice, both to the masters and to the public, ought to have dictated better sentiments. The disgrace attachable to those who abused this valuable institution, should be a beacon to warn the present, and all future managers of benevolent donations from the danger that accompanies their misapplication, which will certainly be attended by the severest reprehension—the loss of character—and every thing that a good man may deem valuable.

*Gordon's Hospital.*—This building is situated a little to the west of the grammar-school, on ground formerly belonging to the White Friars. It stands at the extremity of a large garden, and is an elegant house of three storeys, with pediments projecting in front, and on each end. From the centre of the roof springs a handsome spire, which is covered with lead. A white marble statue of the founder is placed above the entry. The whole building is eighty-six feet long, and thirty-three feet nine inches wide, over walls, and was finished in the year 1736 or 7.

ROBERT GORDON, merchant in Aberdeen, was the founder of this valuable institution, the object of which is, to maintain and educate indigent boys, and it was opened

opened for that purpose in the year 1750. The deed of settlement is dated the 13th of December, 1729, by which the founder disposes L.10,000 sterling, or such a sum as his estate shall produce, "in favours of the  
 " provost, bailies, and the remanent members of the  
 " town-council of the burgh of Aberdeen, and the  
 " four ministers of the gospel of the old and new  
 " churches, and their successors, in trust, for the uses,  
 " ends, and purposes, after mentioned, conform to,  
 " and in the terms of the rules and statutes under-  
 " written." The magistrates and council, with the four ministers, were also appointed sole executors, for the purpose of uplifting the funds, and applying them to the erection and maintenance of the institution, to be called **ROBERT GORDON'S HOSPITAL.**

The eligibility of claimants for admission is distinctly detailed in the deed of settlement; but seeing the "intention of this foundation is only to relieve the  
 " poor," their indigent circumstances must be fully established. The natural partiality, however, of the founder to his own name and relations, induced him to specify a preference as to admission, regulated by certain circumstances. Accordingly, boys are entitled to be received into this hospital in the following order.

" 1st, Sons or grandsons of decayed burgesses of  
 " guild of Aberdeen, who are relations of the mortifier, of the surname of *Gordon*."

" 2d, Sons or grandsons of decayed burgesses of  
 " guild of Aberdeen, who are relations of the mortifier, of the surname of *Menzies*."

" 3d, Sons or grandsons of any other decayed burgesses of guild of Aberdeen, of the surname of *Gordon*."

" 4th, Sons or grandsons of any other decayed burgesses of guild of Aberdeen, of the surname of *Menzies*."

" 5th, Sons or grandsons of decayed burgesses of guild of Aberdeen, who are relations of the mortifier, of any other surname."

" 6th, Sons or grandsons of any other decayed burgesses of guild, of whatever surname."

" 7th, Sons or grandsons of decayed tradesmen, burgesses of Aberdeen, being of the seven incorporated trades, among which are included the butchers: persons of the surname of *Gordon* and *Menzies*, and the relations of the mortifier in this rank having preference to others, in the same order as observed in that of burgesses of guild."

" 8th, Sons and grandsons of litsters and barbers in Aberdeen, boys of the surname of *Gordon* and *Menzies*, and relations of the mortifier having preference in this rank as above."

" 9th, The sons or grandsons of residents in Aberdeen, in general, with preference as above."

" It being expressly declared, that the relations of the mortifier, whether of the surname of *Gordon* or *Menzies*, or of any other surname, are not entitled to be elected into the hospital, unless they be sons or grandsons of burgesses of guild of Aberdeen, or tradesmen burgesses of it: and ought not to be elected while there are petitions from sons or grand-

" sons



" sons of burgesses of guild, or tradesmen burgesses  
" of Aberdeen."

" The boys claiming to be elected, must not be under nine years of age, nor above twelve ;" and they may remain until they be fourteen, fifteen, or sixteen years old. The boys are uniformly dressed, and the greatest attention is paid to their clothing, cleanliness, and diet. The plan of instruction comprehends reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geometry, the French language, drawing, and vocal music. The internal economy of the house, as well as the instruction of the youth, is under the immediate superintendence of the master, who directs the teachers, and sees that they perform their duty.

The regulations by which this valuable institution is guarded, are various, but judicious; and throughout, they breathe a spirit of philanthropy that strongly indicates the humane and amiable disposition of the founder. When the boys have remained the limited time in the hospital, they are apprenticed to merchandizing, or to any trade their genius or inclination may lead them to embrace; and the apprentice-fee of L.8 0s. 8d. sterling, is paid for them. If they conduct themselves with propriety during their apprenticeship, they are allowed L.5 sterling each, to enable them to commence business. If any boy, however, shall prefer going abroad, to staying at home, he is allowed L.10 sterling for fitting him out. By an agreement with the principal and professors of Marischal College, the president and governors of the hospital are entitled to recommend annually four boys, who shall be al-

lowed to attend the mathematical and natural philosophy classes taught in the university, and accordingly four are annually recommended.

At the commencement of this institution, the funds were only in a situation to maintain twenty-six boys; but by prudent management, they have been so far improved, that the number at present in the hospital, is seventy-eight: and altogether, seven hundred and twenty indigent children have been maintained and educated. Six hundred of these have been apprenticed to merchants or handicraftsmen, and many of them have become respectable and opulent. It is a fundamental law of the institution, that those boys who shall acquire, or succeed to a stock equal to 4000 marks, shall pay the whole expense that has been bestowed upon them; yet, except in one or two instances, nothing has been obtained from the ungrateful sons of this charity, although many of them have realized ample fortunes.

It will certainly surprize the reader, when he is informed that only two donations have been received from those who have reaped the benefit of the institution. One, from a man who had acquired a great fortune,—of the paltry amount of L.100 sterling; and the other—a trifle. The ingratitude of mankind is a vulgar topic; but it has been too strongly exemplified by those who have been the objects of this charity.

A man died lately, possessed of L.80,000 sterling, who had been clothed, fed, and had received his education in this hospital. He was reminded of his obligations to the institution, during his life-time, but he  
made

made no reply : and at his death, he forgot even what he justly owed ; and, to this moment, the expense bestowed upon him, is unpaid. He owed all he possessed of education to this institution : and if he had not been sheltered within its walls, he might have been, perhaps, a " poor wandering beggar boy," and never have reached any rank in society above that of a day-labourer.

The amiable founder of this institution, ordered that the names of those who contributed to it, should be honourably recorded in the books, " and also put up " in gilded letters upon a wall within it." But he should likewise have added, that the names of those who had enjoyed its benefits, and forgot to make a suitable return, should be enrolled on a tablet of INFAMY, as a beacon to warn the youth within its walls, against the crime of ingratitude\*.

Many ridiculous stories have been handed down concerning Mr. Gordon's private character, which are extremely improbable, and quite unnatural. We know what he has done for the good of posterity ; and if, to accomplish a noble act of beneficence, he should have denied himself those enjoyments of life to which he was so well entitled, it must place him still higher in the scale of philanthropy. He was nearly connected with the distinguished families of Straloch and Pitfodder, and possessed both the education and manners of

\* If those who could have afforded it, had paid the expense they cost this institution, four times the number of boys might have been clothed, fed, and educated ; so that their neglect is an injury to the public, as well as a disgrace to themselves.

a gentleman. His memory lives in the hearts of all honest men : and he has consecrated a monument to the good of mankind, that will perpetuate his name and his humanity through after ages.

*Infirmary.*—The foundation-stone of this valuable institution was laid on the first day of January, in the year 1740.

In the minutes of the infirmary-records, it is stated, that “ the magistrates, council, and principal inhabitants, taking into their consideration the miserable  
“ circumstances their fellow-creatures are reduced to,  
“ by bodily distempers ; and that, by want of proper  
“ care from physicians, they are rendered altogether  
“ useless, and consequently, burthensome to society ;  
“ and being informed that, to remedy this great evil,  
“ infirmaries have been lately built in the cities of  
“ Edinburgh and Glasgow, by public contributions  
“ from the inhabitants, &c. ‘ into which all proper  
“ objects are received, and regularly attended by  
“ physicians :’ ”—The magistrates called a meeting in the town-house, of the principal inhabitants, and submitted to them the proposal for the erection of the infirmary of Aberdeen, which they immediately embraced. They subscribed liberally, and their charity was active ; for they solicited assistance from their friends in all corners of the world, and happily they were able to accomplish their humane and benevolent intentions.

The expenditure of the infirmary is partly provided from the interest of such donations and contributions

as.

as have, from time to time, been given by well-disposed individuals and societies, and which have been converted into a permanent stock. But this fund being very inadequate to the support of an institution becoming rapidly and unavoidably much more expensive in its annual disbursements, its chief source of revenue arises from collections at all public places of worship in the synod of Aberdeen, and at the parish churches in the adjoining counties, with occasional donations and legacies. Government also grants a sum annually, sufficient for keeping open a military ward on a very limited scale; and a small revenue arises from a payment of four guineas by each student of medicine, who attends the hospital during his apprenticeship.

In the year 1773, the managers of the infirmary were constituted a body-corporate by royal charter. The provost of Aberdeen—the four bailies—the dean of guild, and treasurer—the last acting provost—the town-clerk, and convener of trades—the professor of medicine in Marischal College—and the moderator of the synod of Aberdeen, all for the time being—with the directors for life, so constituted, in consequence of a legacy or donation of fifty pounds each; and fourteen persons to be elected annually—are appointed and established one body corporate and politic for ever, under the name and title of the *President and Managers of the Infirmary of Aberdeen*. The charter appoints an annual general meeting on the first Monday of December, of the president, managers, and contributors, for the election of fourteen additional managers; and

and provides, that six, at least, of the fourteen managers so to be elected, shall be chosen and taken from the following professions and societies within the city; viz. one of the ministers of Aberdeen of the established church; one of the managers of the monies collected for pious uses at St. Paul's chapel, in the city of Aberdeen; two of the physicians residing in Aberdeen; one of the society of shipmasters there; and (for completing the number of six), one of the present or preceding deacons of any of the incorporate trades within the city. It provides also, that four, at least, of the said fourteen managers, shall, at every annual election, be changed and removed. The charter further nominates, the provost of Aberdeen, and, in his absence, the magistrate next in rank to him, to be the president of the corporation, and to have a casting vote. It appoints four general quarterly courts to be held on the third Monday of the months of March, June, September, and December, with the power of adjournment; and the general courts are authorised to appoint committees of their number, for the more immediate direction of the affairs of the infirmary. It empowers them to nominate a treasurer, officers, servants, and other persons, necessary to be employed in the government, and for carrying on the affairs and business of the said incorporation; and also grants them the power to make such by-laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances, as they, or the majority of them, being present, shall judge proper and necessary, for the better government and direction of the infirmary.

Those at present engaged in conducting the internal

nal business of the infirmary are, two physicians; a chaplain; one person executing the duties of treasurer and clerk; a matron, or housekeeper; five nurses, besides night nurses, according to circumstances; four female servants, and two porters. A gentleman attends daily to administer electricity to patients; and altogether, this establishment is managed in a manner that does great credit to all concerned in the direction of its affairs.

The following abstract of the number of patients who have been received into, and dismissed from the infirmary, betwixt 1st of January 1810, and 1st of January 1811, will shew the extent of the utility of this humane institution.

1810.

Jan. 1.—Patients remaining in the hospital	67
Admitted, betwixt 1st of January,	
1810, and 1st of January, 1811	736—803
Of whom have been cured perfectly	
- - - - -	479
Recovered, not cured perfectly	113
Improper, dismissed at their own	
desire, and deserted	83
Dead	44

1811.

Jan. 1.—Patients remaining in the hospital 82—803

Note.—Besides the above patients admitted into the hospital, one thousand and ninety-seven have had the benefit of advice and medicines, as out-patients.

It will be seen by the preceding account of the infirmary, that a great part of its revenue is casual, and depends

depends upon the liberality of charitable people. One great source of income arises from the collections of the different churches within the range of its influence. And as it is apparent, that the extent of the usefulness of this institution, must be limited by the amount of its revenue, the importance of augmenting these collections, must be evident : but it is to be lamented, that so little exertion is generally made for that purpose. The clergy have it much in their power to benefit this charity, which is in fact benefiting their own parishioners ; and if they were to exert themselves, they could have no difficulty in doubling the annual collections. Were they to deliver a discourse adapted to the subject, enforcing by argument and illustration, the importance of contributing largely to this establishment, which is calculated to relieve the pains of the afflicted, by restoring to health those who " languish on the bed of sickness," they would certainly arouse the benevolent feelings of their hearers.

The collections in country churches do not in general exceed one penny sterling, for each person, or, at most, three halfpennies annually, which is a sum so very insignificant, that it is wonderful the clergy are not ashamed to transmit it to the treasurer of the hospital. One clergyman, however, (of the author's acquaintance), much to his credit, adopted a plan which tripled his collection. Instead of gathering the money at the church-door, which is the usual method, he sent the elders to every house in his parish, who wrote down the names of the people, and the amount they gave. This scheme was a direct appeal to the charity  
of



of his parishioners, and perhaps in some degree affected their vanity; for the paper was a record, and no one was willing to be thought less benevolent than his neighbour: and accordingly, they contributed three times the sum that was usually collected by the old method. This was certainly doing much good with very little trouble; and it is sincerely to be wished, that his brethren of the church would everywhere imitate the example, or, at any rate, take some effectual plan to promote the beneficent object of this highly valuable institution.

*Lunatic Hospital.*—Previously to the year 1806, the care of insane persons devolved on the managers of the infirmary, in which there were several ground-cells. But, convinced of the injury which the other patients suffered, by being under the same roof with lunatics, the managers were led to turn their thoughts to an institution entirely adapted to this humane purpose, and an hospital was accordingly erected.

The fund with which the ground was purchased, and the buildings erected, is stated at something more than three thousand pounds, and was raised by voluntary contributions solely from the citizens of Aberdeen. The expenditure is still partly defrayed from the same source; but the revenue of the institution chiefly arises from payments by the patients: fifteen pounds sterling for each, being the lowest; twenty-five pounds, the second rate of charge; and thirty, the highest: with the exception of those whose circumstances admit of better payment. In September, 1810,

1810, there were ten patients on charity ; twenty, at the rate of fifteen pounds ; six, at twenty pounds ; and three, at twenty-five pounds annually.

By the original charter, the magistrates are appointed managers, along with the professor of medicine in the university ; other official persons from the different societies of Aberdeen ; and the donors to the hospital. By a regulation of the institution, an annual report of the number of patients, and state of the asylum, is presented to the sheriff and magistrates. The medical department is under the care of Doctors Moir and Dyce, who, much to their honour, gratuitously afford their attendance.

There are printed regulations for diet, bedding, &c. ; and the internal management of the hospital is committed to one principal keeper ; two assistants ; a housekeeper ; and four female servants. The convalescent male patients are employed in gardening, and the females in spinning flax, or in house-service.

The extent of the accommodation of this asylum is limited to fifty patients ; but it can be easily increased : and in that respect, the managers must be guided by the amount of the funds, of which an account is kept by the treasurer, who is accountable for all receipts and disbursements.

The total number of patients admitted into the hospital, since its establishment, down to the 1st May, 1810, is one hundred and sixty, according to the following statement, viz.

Dismissed,

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Dismissed, as cured -	14	8	22
In a convalescent state	19	15	34
At the desire of their friends	18	19	37
Died - - - -	15	13	28
Remaining, on the 1st May,			
1810 - - - -	18	21	39
<hr/>			
Total....	84	76	160

EXPENCE of supporting the hospital for one year, from the 1st May, 1809, to the 1st May, 1810, according to the hospital books; the average number of patients being thirty-five one-sixth, viz.

Provisions - - - -	£298	12	9
Fire - - - -	23	6	10
Light - - - -	2	12	0
Washing - - - -	10	5	0
Incidents—Insurance, stationary, and printing - - - -	14	1	1½
Medicines - - - -	0	11	10½
Repairs of buildings - -	36	7	3½
Interest of £3000 sterling, being the charge on the houses and ground	150	0	0
Salaries for governor and housekeeper - - - - £50	0	0	
Keeper's assistants	40	0	4
<hr/>			
	90	0	4
<hr/>			
Carried forward,	L.623	16	10½

Brought forward,				623	16	10½
Salaries for three women						
servants	-	-	-	15	0	0
Porter	-	-	-	2	2	0
Treasurer	-	-	-	20	0	0
				37	2	0
				L.660 18 10½		

Average charge on each patient, for						
provisions only	-	-	-	8	10	0
Do. do. including other necessities				13	11	0
Do. do. including repairs of houses				14	12	0
Do. do. including house-rent, &c.				18	18	9

THE following is a list of the donations and legacies, with the names of those worthy people who have contributed to this humane institution.

*Donations to the Lunatic Asylum, Aberdeen.*

1800—The trustees of bailie Cargill	L.1128	18	6
John Ewen, Esq. Aberdeen	-	50	0 0
1801—Profits from a play	-	47	8 6
Ditto from a concert of music		32	10 3
1802—A lady	-	25	0 0
A lady	-	10	0 0
A gentleman	-	20	0 0
Baillie Duguid	-	10	0 0
Baillie Galen	-	10	0 0
Sir James Durno	-	10	0 0
William Shepherd, Esq.	-	21	0 0

Carried forward, L.1364 17 3

John

Brought forward,		L.1364	17	3
1803—John Dingwall of Brucklaw, Esq.	-	100	0	0
Mrs. Jean Hunter, Aberdeen	-	50	0	0
1804—Mrs. Mary Adam, do.	- -	100	0	0
1805—Mr. Francis Peacock	- -	20	0	0
1806—Profits of a play	- - -	30	0	0
The Honourable the County Club, betwixt 1802 and 1806		125	0	0
The Northern Shooting Club, ditto ditto	- - -	30	5	0
James Ferguson of Pitfour, Esq.				
M. P. twice L.25	- -	50	0	0
James Farquhar of Johnston, Esq. M. P.	- - -	30	0	0
The Honourable the Magistrates and Council of Aberdeen, an annual payment of L.30 for five years	- - -	150	0	0
Sundries under L.10	- -	76	8	10
Subscriptions under L.10.	-	166	4	6
A collection from the churches and chapels in town	- -	182	15	4
1807—The Hon. the County Club	-	15	0	0
Mrs. Mary Mitchell, London	-	30	0	0
Sundries, under L.10	- -	10	0	0
1808—Part profit of a play	- -	10	0	0
The Shooting Club	- -	10	0	0
William Fiddler, Esq. Aberdeen		20	0	0
A friend to this asylum	- -	10	0	0
Carried forward,		L.2606	10	11

	Brought forward,	L.2606	10	11
1808—	Sundries under L.10 - -	2	2	0
1809—	A friend to the asylum (John Ewen, Esq.) - - -	60	0	0
	Profit of a concert - - -	36	10	0
1810—	The Hon. the County Club -	15	0	0
	Sundries under L.10 - -	10	10	0
		<hr/>		
		L.2730	12	11

*Legacies to the Lunatic Asylum, Aberdeen.*

1799—	Mrs. Allardyce - - -	L.30	0	0
1800—	Patrick Barron, Esq. Woodside	25	0	0
1801—	Mr. John Smith, yost. merchant	100	0	0
	Mr. James Farquhar, land-sur- veyor of customs - -	100	0	0
1802—	Mr. John Cushnie, shipmaster	500	0	0
1804—	Mr. Alex. Ross, yost. merchant	50	0	0
	Isaac Hawkins Brown, Esq. Lon- don, L.500, of three per cent. consolidated stock - -	300	0	0
1805—	Hugh Hutcheon, Esq. advocate	20	0	0
1807—	Miss Ann Irvine, Aberdeen -	25	0	0
	Dr. James Beattie, Marischal College - - - -	25	0	0
	Mrs. Jean Jameson, Aberdeen	25	0	0
	Mr. Donald Stewart, merchant, Aberdeen - - -	40	0	0
1808—	William Mitchell, Esq. London	20	0	0
	Mrs. Captain Gavin, Aberdeen	10	0	0

Carried forward, L.1270 0 0

Provost

Brought forward,	L.1270	0	0
1808—Provost William Cruden, do. -	50	0	0
1809—Mrs. Jameson - - -	15	0	0
1810—William Fiddler, Esq. Aberdeen	20	0	0
<hr/>			
	L.1355	0	0

*Mitchell's Hospital.*—This benevolent institution is situated in the Old Town, and was endowed by David Mitchell, Esq. of Holloway-down, in the county of Essex, who was a native of this city. The building contains separate rooms for the accommodation of five indigent widows, and the like number for maiden daughters of burghesses of Old Aberdeen, besides a public hall for their general resort. They are furnished with all the necessaries, and many of the comforts of life, and each is allowed the disposal of a little money weekly, as she shall think proper. The hospital was opened the 1st January, 1801, and is under the management of the principal and sub-principal of King's Collegé; the provost, and oldest bailie; the convener of the trades of Old Aberdeen; and the ministers of the parish of St. Machar.

The beneficent intentions of the donor have been greatly promoted by his nephew, Alexander Mitchell, Esq. of Powis-place, London, who has made several very considerable improvements on the building, and on its internal embellishments. He has particularly attended to the comfort and happiness of the inhabitants, and has furnished them with a small library of such books as he has thought would be interesting to them; and by various acts of kindness has

shewn his anxiety to follow out the humane intentions of his late worthy uncle.

*Charities.*—There are many charitable funds under the management of the magistrates and council ; and for the purpose of keeping them distinct, and that each may be applied agreeably to its special destination, upwards of sixty different accounts are necessarily kept open ; notwithstanding that, in some instances, where the sums bequeathed, are trifling, and the purpose similar, two or three are placed under one head.

The annual payments arising from these funds, may amount to seventeen or eighteen hundred pounds sterling altogether, of which about L.100 are applied for the education of poor children ; L.200 distributed in bursaries at the grammar-school, and at Marischal College ; and the remainder is appropriated to relieve the poor and indigent of different descriptions.

Amongst these several charitable foundations, a few may be particularized.

*Lady Drum* founded a maiden hospital in 1633, for a few old unmarried women. She bestowed three thousand merks on it as an endowment, and gave three hundred merks to build a house. The house became ruinous ; and the funds not being adequate to the rebuilding of it, the ground on which it stood, was feued out, and, in consequence, the revenue has been considerably improved ; so that, with the interest of stocked money, it now exceeds L.60 sterling a year.

*Robert Johnston*, of London, bequeathed L.600 sterling, " that the poor people of *Aberdeen* may thereby

" be



" be set to work at lawful trades and manufactures." This fund has been somewhat ameliorated ; and the greater part of the annual rent is paid into the poor's hospital ; the remainder being distributed among several people.

*Mr. Ogilvie*, of Jamaica, paid to the town's treasurer, L.50 sterling, for the benefit of a foundling hospital, to accress till it shall amount to a sum sufficient for building one ; and it is now something better than L.200 sterling.

*Archibald Bean*, a dyer, established a charitable fund, which, although originally small, has considerably increased. It is confined to the members of the dyer society ; and as they are few in number, they derive a proportional advantage from it, the benefit being inversely as the number of dyers, to the amount of the fund.

*Poor's Hospital.*—The funds of this institution are united to those of the kirk-session, to which the congregations of every denomination within the town contribute ; and all receive benefit, as the cases of their poor may require, or the funds will admit. About 400 indigent persons receive a monthly allowance regularly, and many others are occasionally supplied. Within the walls of the hospital, *forty* poor children are maintained and educated, and, when at a proper age, they are apprenticed out to different trades.

It is highly gratifying to learn, that there are so many establishments in Aberdeen, for the purposes of humanity, and for the maintenance of the indigent poor.

poor.—Within these few years, a society has been established under the name of the *Female Society*, which is entirely composed of a set of pious ladies, who regularly or occasionally distribute charity to indigent females. They visit the sick, and pray with them, besides bestowing pecuniary assistance, to relieve their immediate wants.—Both the motives and conduct of this society are highly creditable to its members, as their good intentions and practice comprehend religious instruction, as well as active charity.

An *Auxiliary Bible Society* has been established in Aberdeen for the purpose of promoting the great work of the *British and Foreign Bible Society* in London. The Aberdeen society is honoured by high patronage; and many well-meaning gentlemen in this city, both of the clergy and of the laity, are engaged in it. An address to the public first called their attention to this subject, and much good is expected from this, and similar institutions throughout the kingdom. Indeed, it is hinted in the address, that they may produce the most important consequences to the country, as preponderating the scale of providence in our favour, in relation to our great enemy.—“ While so many “ nations,” says the address, “ have fallen under the “ cruel dominion of the conqueror and scourge of the “ civilized world;—while that conqueror is animated “ with destructive rancour against this country, and “ has compelled so many states to join, and to assist “ his hostility against us,—is there not reason to hope “ that so much genuine piety, and substantial virtue, as  
are

“ are displayed by such *undertakings* and *institutions*,  
 “ may, under the gracious protection of the Almighty  
 “ Potentate, *prove the means of securing our independence*  
 “ *and liberty?*” If the bible societies can, by *any*  
*means*, weaken the power of Bonaparte, it will be  
 doing this nation the greatest service: for, contend-  
 ing with him has brought us to the brink of ruin;  
 and unless some plan shall be adopted soon, either to  
 reduce his strength, or to incline his heart to peace, it  
 is thought by many that we shall be utterly undone.

But it has been doubted by some intelligent men,  
 how far it is expedient, or at all necessary for us, in  
 existing circumstances, to translate the *Scriptures* into  
 “ *Hindostanee, Bengalee, Persian, Mahratta, Malayalim,*  
 “ *Sanscrit, Chinese, Turkish, Esquimaux, Calmuck, Mo-*  
 “ *hawk,*” or into any other language, that may have  
 emanated from the confusion of *Babel*, for the purpose  
 of distributing them among foreign and independent na-  
 tions, who are by no means desirous of our good ser-  
 vices, and are, at the same time, perfectly satisfied with  
 their own systems of religion. It is well known, that  
 schemes of proselytism have seldom succeeded, from  
 a remote period, down to the missionary expeditions to  
 Otaheite, and the other islands of the South Seas; and  
 it is also known, that the natives of India, and of some  
 other countries, have obstinately resisted every attempt  
 to convert them to Christianity.

There can be little objection, however, to the people  
 of Britain sending as much of their property as they  
 can conveniently spare, to other nations, in the shape  
 of bibles; and perhaps their money is just as well, or  
 better,

better, expended in this way, than wasted in the explosion of gunpowder on the plains of Spain and Portugal: but there is great danger to be apprehended from that spirit which supports this system of "converting all nations." At present, it is beyond all doubt harmless, and will be so, while it extends no farther than merely sending printed books: But have we any assurance that these feelings, as yet temperate, may not in time, and at no distant period, rise into mad enthusiasm; and are we positively certain, that *Bengalee, Esquimaux, Calmuck, and Mohawk* bibles, may not be followed by legions of armed men to enforce their circulation, and thus expose the world again to the horrors of the crusades.

The members of the bible societies, and particularly of that of Aberdeen, must, as yet, be acquitted of any intention of propagating Christianity by the sword; but are they aware, that it is an easy process to work up the human mind from zeal to fervour—from fervour to enthusiasm;—and have they considered, that when once the frenzy has reached to a certain point, it is much to be feared, that the war trumpet will call the votaries of fanaticism together, to persecute, perhaps, to extirpate, peaceful and inoffensive nations, because they have treated our admonitions lightly, and chuse to continue to worship God in their own manner. The progress of bigotry in this country is already alarmingly rapid, and methodism is fast supplanting the established religion, which is tottering on its foundation, through the undermining arts of enthusiastic sectaries. That bigotry, therefore, which is

so justly to be dreaded, should not be fostered, or even countenanced, by systematic arrangements founded on the same principles and views as professed by the most violent Calvinistic dissenters of the present day.

One man inflamed all Europe, and produced the crusades, so destructive to the population of the western nations; but Europe was prepared to receive the impression, as the minds of men were fanaticised, and the consequence was, that, in pursuance of a hopeless scheme, myriads perished on the plains of Asia. What has happened, may occur again; and are we certain, that the *desire* to propagate Christianity among infidel nations, although as yet temperate and rational, may not in time become warm and irritable, and finally, rise into anger: for the rage of bigotry is furious, and cannot be restrained or softened by the power of reason. As the transition from an *ardent desire* to convince, to the *actual application of force* when persuasion fails, is so easy,—it is much to be apprehended, that a peaceable system of proselytism may soon be followed by measures of coercion; and every approach, therefore, to that state of things which countenances persecution for “religion’s sake,” should be repressed and borne down.

Were there any circumstances existing in the present state of the Christian church, that required the particular activity of its members, it would be their bounden duty to make every suitable exertion to maintain that system which they believe to be founded on immutable truth; but the progress of infidelity is languid, and scepticism is less prevalent than previously

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merely the speculations of a few  
 philosophical writers, who never attempted to reduce  
 them to practice: but in every country, religious bi-  
 der has produced the most fatal consequences. It  
 is intolerant and persecuting, and these realms have  
 suffered much from its merciless rage. Its workings,  
 therefore, should be carefully watched: but above all,  
 it should not be encouraged by the countenance of  
 those well meaning, although deluded men, who con-  
 stitute missionary establishments, and foreign bible  
 societies.

To understand fully the nature of the missionary  
 system, it is necessary to view it in all its bearings:  
 but the slightest acquaintance with its manner of pro-  
 ceeding, must convince any man of the utter inefficacy  
 of such schemes. The Christian church is divided in-  
 to two great bodies, possessing separate and distinct  
 characters. The first, and by far the more numerous,  
 is the Roman Catholic, which occupies the fairest part  
 of Europe: the second is, the Protestant, or reformed  
 church, which possesses part of Germany, and the  
 whole of Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, and the island of  
 Great Britain. The catholics were early active in  
 disseminating their doctrines in both the Indies, and  
 in South America; and, at the point of the sword,  
 they have succeeded in compelling many of the na-  
 tives, within the range of their settlements, to observe  
 the superstitious rites of the church of Rome. The  
 protestants have not been so zealous in the work of  
 conversion as the sister church, until of late years,  
 that

that they have been moved to make attempts in Africa and Asia, principally through the efforts of sectarians in England; and as yet, it may be said, that they have completely failed, especially in Hindostan, where they have made their chief efforts. But an irreconcilable difference subsists between the Roman Catholics and Protestants, in their doctrines, their tenets, and opinions. The first consider the protestants as beyond the reach of salvation; and as heretics, view them not more favourably than if they were Jews, or Mohammedans. The second deem the church of Rome as sunk in gross error, superstition, and idolatry, and lost to the kingdom of Christ.—While the Christian world is thus divided, and the variance of such a nature as not only to preclude their acting together, but to induce their strenuous efforts to oppose each other by mutual recriminations, which include threatenings so awful as eternal perdition, it is not to be expected, that foreign nations will listen to their admonitions, and much less, that they will adopt Christianity in preference to their own religion, which they have been taught to revere through a series of generations. A Gentoo, who may meet with a catholic missionary, and receive instruction according to the doctrines of the church of Rome, must be surprised indeed, when, next day, he is assailed by a missionary of methodism, and informed, that all he has learned, is merely error and delusion, and that the pains of hell will follow his adherence to such a system of Christianity. As he cannot determine, therefore, which is right, he will naturally, when he finds such discrepancy of opinion,

view both with suspicion and distrust, and ultimately consider the religion of his fathers the best, to which he must retain a strong prepossession from his education and early habits. Until Christians shall be reconciled among themselves, so that they may pursue one uniform mode of instruction, they can scarcely expect the conversion of heathen nations; and to their differences, their acrimony, and the ignorance of their agents, may be fairly ascribed the little progress that Christianity has made throughout Africa and Asia. Although missionary establishments, and foreign bible societies are not exactly the same, yet they are related, and the affinity between them is so close, that they must be considered as guided by similar views and principles.

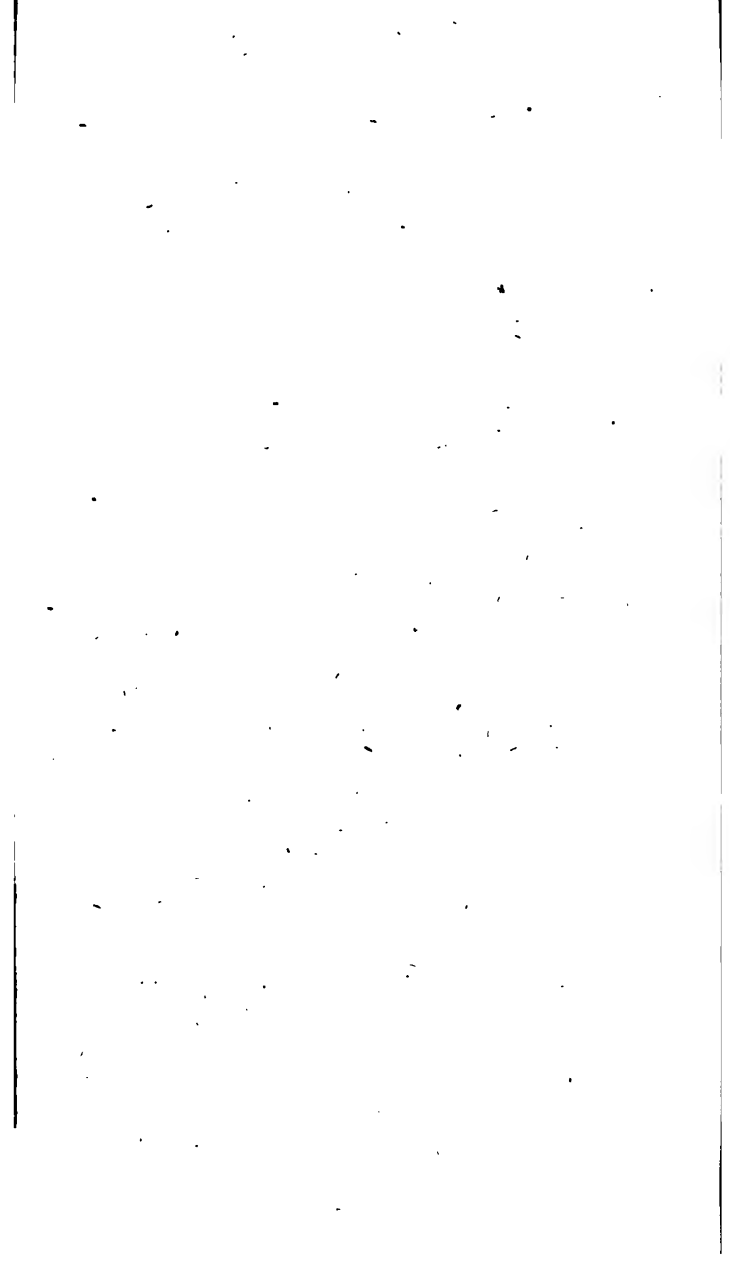
It is held forth by the *Aberdeen Auxiliary Bible Society* that their sole object shall be "to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, *without note or comment*," which plainly means, that the "word of truth" shall not be corrupted with the erroneous explanations of men. But can the missionaries—those living oracles of folly and nonsense—be prevented from commenting on the doctrines contained in the sacred volumes? Will they not supply the deficiency of notes, which have been generally written by men of learning and good sense, by their own illustrations, which are the effusions of ignorance and absurdity? It is quite clear, that the circulation of bibles in foreign countries must be preceded by missionaries to recommend them, and these enthusiasts will certainly, at the same time, endeavour to diffuse  
their



their own opinions, or rather, the particular tenets of their respective sects, which already have produced much harm in the peninsula of India; and at home, the puritanical spirit is engendering a volcano, that, as in the time of Cromwell, may overwhelm both church and throne.

But while there are so many charitable institutions in Aberdeen, calculated upon the most beneficent principles, and already reduced to practical utility, it is supposed by some, that the spare money of the citizens might be as well bestowed on such charities as the *Infirmary*, *Gordon's Hospital*, the *Lunatic Asylum*, and the *Poor's Hospital*, as in giving bibles to those who either will not, or cannot, read them. A society indeed has been lately established in Edinburgh, for the purpose of learning our ignorant Highlanders to read, by introducing ambulatory schools among them, in imitation of a similar institution successfully adopted in Wales. This is beginning the business in a proper manner, and is a *rational* kind of plan, that cannot fail to obtain the approbation of every person who wishes well to Scotland, and may, with propriety, be followed up by the distribution of bibles, as the Highlanders will then be in a state to study and understand "the instructions of immutable, everlasting truth and wisdom\*."

\* Address, p. 270.



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## CHAPTER IV.

### CONTENTS.

[CHURCHES—MEDICAL SOCIETY—DISPENSARIES—VACCINE  
INSTITUTION—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES—MASON LODGES  
AND MASONRY—BARRACKS—BRIDEWELL.]

\* \* \* \*

### CHURCHES.

IN Aberdeen, there are about twenty-six places for public worship. The most conspicuous are, the presbyterian or established churches; the episcopalian, Scotch and English; and the Roman Catholic. As to the others, they are all distinguished by appropriate names, which are known to those who preach in them, and perhaps, to the more intelligent of their hearers. They are all of the church of Christ, but differ about some points of doctrine, or ceremonies, which it would be difficult to explain:

*East and West Churches.*—These are called the *Town's*, and are fine Gothic buildings. St. Nicolas Church was

built in the year 1482, and is said to have possessed an air of grandeur and simplicity, which both charmed and awed the spectator. The middle aisle was wide and lofty ; the arches very high ; and the piers light and well turned\*. It was in danger of falling, and was pulled down in the year 1743, that the present West Church might be built on its site.

“ The West Church is an hundred feet six inches long, and sixty-six feet broad. The middle aisle is twenty-five feet broad, and each of the side aisles, including the thickness of the piers, twenty feet and an half. The piers between the arches, are four feet six inches, by three feet. Though this church is fifteen feet six inches shorter than the old one, it contains near double the number of people, from the better construction of the galleries. The side walls are parallel with the walls of the East, formerly called the New Church, and of the same height. The windows are in the modern style. In the west gable is a large arched window, from the bottom of which is projected, with a gentle slope, a gallery for the masters and scholars of the grammar-school. From the front of this gallery spring two side ones, on a line with the inside of the piers, till they close the square, by intersecting the corners of a gallery in the east end, appropriated for the magistrates.

“ In the centre of this gallery there is a canopy, supported by four fluted mahogany columns, of the Corinthian order, with their capitals gilt. There is a  
pediment

\* Douglas, p. 102.

pediment in front, on which the town's arms are cut in *alto-relievo*, and properly coloured. Over the breast of the gallery hangs a deep covering of crimson-velvet, with a gold fringe. The lord provost sits under the canopy, with the bailies, and other magistrates, on his right and left, according to their rank and seniority. On a dead wall, at the back of the gallery, are two pieces of tapestry; the one representing Ahasuerus holding forth the golden sceptre to queen Esther; the other, Jephtha meeting his daughter. A very elegant pulpit and reader's desk, stand on the central pier on the south side wall of the middle aisle.

"This church was built from a plan presented to the town, by the celebrated Mr. James Gibb, architect, a citizen of Aberdeen. In the year 1751, the magistrates contracted with Mr. Wylie, a wright from Edinburgh, who agreed to complete the design for four thousand pounds sterling, only the magistrates were to cover the roof with lead, at their own expense. It was opened for public worship, on Sunday, the 9th of November, 1755, when Mr. James Ogilvie, then one of the town's ministers, preached from these words, "In all places where I record my name, will I come unto thee, and I will bless thee."—Exod. xx. 24.

"The East Church is a fine Gothic building, eighty-six feet in length, to the breast of the altar. The arches which divide the middle and side aisles, are lofty, and supported by strong pillars. The church has a double row of galleries in the west end, and a single row on each side; the breasts of them in a line with the pillars. On the east end, during the establishment

ment of popery and episcopacy, the altar stood in a large bow-window, divided into three lights, by small stone piers. This projection is twenty-two feet broad in front, eighteen feet deep, and about thirty-six feet high. It was called the *Sanctum sanctorum*, from the purpose to which it was appropriated. It is now fitted up with pews for the old people and children in the poor-house.

“ In the body of the church hang several large brass chandeliers; and before the upper gallery in the west end, hangs a small ship in full trim, to indicate that the gallery is appropriated for sea-faring people. The pulpit is on the north side; backward from which we enter to a large room where the church-session meets to do business. In the wall, near the session-house door, a small flat stone marks the place where Mr. Adam Hariot, their first protestant minister, was buried. Between the two churches, there is a lofty cross building, called Drum’s Aisle, in one end of which the presbytery and synod of Aberdeen meet. It is about one hundred feet long, twenty feet broad, and seems about fifty feet high in the roof, which is a platform covered with lead, as both churches and the session-house are.

“ From the centre of this aisle rises a small square tower, about twelve feet high, in which five large bells are hung, one above another; on each corner of the tower, on the outside, is a small square wooden spire, formed of strong cross logs of oak, mortized and pinned into one another. The spire ends in a point, and has a gilt ball and weathercock at top; it is curiously covered.

vered with sheet-lead, We ascend to it from the floor of the aisle, by almost perpendicular stairs and ladders of sixty-four steps. The steeple is furnished with an exceeding good public clock, which chimes the quarters; and on each of the squares, there is a large dial-plate.

"The largest bell, called Laurence, is four feet diameter at the mouth, very thick, and three and an half feet high; of old, there was an act of council made, that this bell should not be tolled but for the great and honourable.

"Though the whole of the cross building is commonly called Drum's Aisle, yet, properly speaking, that end of it where the synod meets, should only be so called, for there the Drum family have always been buried. That they had originally a property in it, is evident from the family arms being cut in the stone pier, between the windows, and stampt upon the lead of the roof. The town of Aberdeen never would have permitted this, had not the laird of Drum merited, by his benefactions to the building, the exclusive privilege of burying in that part of it. The family also founded an altarage in the church of St. Nicolas, to the honour of God and St. Ninian, who had three altars in that church. Those of the Drum family who are buried in this aisle, pay no burial dues to the town, unless they had been *foris familiated*."

The burying-ground is extensive, but not large enough to accommodate the increased population of Aberdeen; and a considerable addition has lately been made to it. It is inclosed with a high stone and  
lime

lime wall, in which there are four large gates, and a side entry, by a door; and another entry is just now opening from Union-street. There are a great many tombs on the west wall, but few of them in a good taste.

*St. Paul's Chapel* stands on the west side of the Gallowgate, where divine service is performed according to the rites of the church of England. It was built in the year 1721, and is eighty feet long, and thirty feet broad, and has an aisle on the north side, thirty-six feet in front, and twenty-one feet backward. The galleries are eleven feet eight inches above the floor of the chapel. In the centre of the roof is a handsome cupola, about nine feet diameter, and covered with glass. There are two clergymen appointed to this chapel, who are supported by the seat-rents, collections at the doors, and some funds arising from donations\*.

*St. Andrew's Chapel*, which belongs to Bishop Skinner, is situated in Longacre. It is a large house, and well filled by a numerous body of Scotch episcopalians. This sect has also another chapel in Golden-square, a little to the west of Union-street, which is a neat house, with a small, but elegant steeple on the north-west end. Each of these three chapels has an organ, which is a great improvement to their psalmody.—In the presbyterian churches, organs have not been admitted: the attempt to introduce them was made at Glasgow, but the fanatics opposed it, and the General Assembly sanctioned their folly. The more rational part of the  
presbyterians

\* Douglas, p. 102—106.



presbyterians would have no objections to see organs in their churches; but the ignorant, who are numerous and bigotted, would think the introduction of organs an approach to popery, which they are taught to consider as the worst of all religious establishments.

*The Roman Catholic Chapel* is situated at the north extremity of Castle-street, and is attended by a very genteel congregation.

*Medical Society.*—A particular account of the rise and progress of the Aberdeen Medical Society, containing the laws, regulations, &c. was printed in the year 1796, for the use of the members. For the information of the public, the author takes the liberty to quote largely from the introduction to that little book; at the same time, waving the preliminary observations on the importance of the art of medicine, as he doubts if it is yet brought to such perfection, as to enable its professors to “strew the borders of the grave with flowers\*.”

“For the establishment of a medical society at Aberdeen, several attempts had been made; but they all proved abortive, till the year 1789, when, by the unremitting exertions of a few young men, engaged in the study of medicine, the present society was set on foot. By them no labour was spared, nor any means left untried, that seemed likely to give stability to the institution, and promote its success. But as several prior attempts had been made in vain for a like establishment, it was their determined resolution not to make

\* Introduction, printed in 1796, p. 1.

make known the scheme, even to the gentlemen of the faculty residing in the place, and still less to the public at large, until a trial, for a reasonable time, should prove the probability of its success.

“Some time after its institution, the members, in consequence of the progress it had made, and presuming that its obvious utility would draw the patronage and attention of those more immediately connected with medicine, gave intimation of it to the medical gentlemen of the place, and afterwards to the professors of both colleges; from whom it received, not only a general approbation, but many particular marks of their attention.

“As the members had no particular place of meeting, the present professor of Greek, in Marischal College, whose exertions for the promotion of science are well known, was pleased to offer his class-room for the accommodation of the society. In it the meetings were held weekly; and the only business done, was the reading of a dissertation by one of the members.

“For a considerable time after its institution, the society had no property; and the only collections made, were to defray the necessary expenses. But, in February, 1791, the members, conscious of the utility and advantages that are derived from the establishment of a public library, made a proposal for an institution of this kind. This, by the liberal donations of the members, and other gentlemen friendly to the society, has been well supported, and now consists of many hundred volumes.

“In June 1791, a plan was proposed for the establishment

ment of a medical museum. This indeed, from the want of anatomical prelections, and from the difficulty of procuring recent subjects, is an object which the society has had very much at heart, for several years past, as being a source of instruction, to the young students especially, in many respects more useful than books. But although the members have taken advantage of every opportunity in their power, to promote this important establishment, their efforts have hitherto been attended with but little success; and they are sorry to observe, that the preparations yet collected, fall far short, both in number and variety, of what would be requisite for illustrating even the general principles of anatomy. And as there is but little probability that the society will ever be able of itself to procure such a number of preparations, as can make the museum either useful or respectable, it is hoped, the members will be forgiven, if they presume to solicit the patrons of this science to contribute, as much as lies in their power, to its advancement. It cannot be doubted, that among those, into whose hands the present pamphlet may come, there will be some, particularly at London and Edinburgh, who may have it very much in their power to assist the society in this way. A late traveller, in a tour through Italy, observes, that at the anatomical theatres of some of the universities in that country, preparations are frequently thrown into the dunghill, which would be considered as highly ornamental in a London collection. In like manner, it is probable, that at the anatomical theatres of London and Edinburgh, many preparations

are suffered to perish, which would be valuable acquisitions to the students of Aberdeen.

“ But the members, though anxious for the advancement of their library and museum, did not overlook that part of medical science more immediately connected with practice.—Some time after the institution, a resolution was entered into, that a book should be kept under the care of the secretary, for the insertion of observations and cases, occurring to practitioners at a distance ; and the society is already in possession of several valuable cases, communicated by different medical gentlemen. It has often been matter of regret, that too many valuable and important cases, falling under the observation of physicians at a distance from the capital, have been frequently lost to the public ; but here an opportunity is given them, not only of obliging the society by such communications, but also of making them of general utility. It may likewise be of considerable importance to record remarkable changes of the weather, with the prevailing epidemics of particular places. All such communications may therefore be addressed *To the Secretary of the Medical Society.*

“ In 1762, from the flourishing state of the society, and for the convenience of the members, it was thought expedient to print the laws and regulations, and a catalogue of the books belonging to the society. By this means too, the institution came to be more generally known ; at the same time, it was a means of recommending it to the patronage of literary men, and the friends of medical improvement throughout the island ;

Island ; many of whom, residing at a distance, and of them not a few connected with this place, by birth, education, or otherwise, there is good reason to believe, had never before heard that such an institution existed. To the friends of science in general, but more particularly to those who belong to the medical profession, the news of any such institution will naturally be in some degree, acceptable, if not interesting. It can hardly fail to excite a transient wish of success, even from persons the most indifferent to such pursuits. In the breasts of many, it has already awakened sentiments the most friendly and beneficent, and a corresponding conduct. For it is a flattering circumstance to the members, that the present institution has met the approbation, and received the patronage, of some men of the first literary talents ; and in particular, by means of several eminent and worthy characters in London and Edinburgh, the society has received a considerable number of valuable donations to the library. It is much owing to these, and to the gentlemen of the faculty of this place, that the society has attained its present flourishing condition.

“ In consequence of the numerous additions which have been made to the library, and from other circumstances, a second edition of the Laws, &c. has become necessary. The members at a distance will now have an opportunity of observing the progress the society has of late made. At present, there are none of the young men here, who are not desirous of obtaining a seat in the society, as soon after the commencement of their studies, as the established regulations

will permit. Even when first established, it proved of the utmost utility to most of those who have studied medicine here, for some years past. It awakened a spirit of emulation before unknown, and was the means of promoting a regular plan, and habit of application, among the generality of the students: nay, it may be said with great truth, very few members have bidden farewell to the society, without acknowledging with gratitude, the benefits they have derived from it.

“The members who compose this society are divided into three classes, distinguished by the names of *Honorary*, *Extraordinary*, and *Ordinary*, and their respective duties are prescribed by the following rules.

“*Honorary Members*.—1. A place in this class is presented by the society without solicitation.

“2. They receive a diploma upon admission.

“3. They are the custodes of the society's property, in case of its dissolution, or any other occurrence that may require their interference.

“4. They may propose honorary or extraordinary members.”

“*Extraordinary Members*.—1. This class consists of men of letters and liberal professions, whether practitioners in medicine or not.

“2. They may be admitted with, or without solicitation.

“3. They have diplomas.

“4. They are neither obliged to attend the meetings, nor pay contributions.

“5. They have no vote in any business of the society.

ciety, unless they have previously attended the meetings for three weeks.

*“ Ordinary Members.—*1. This class must consist of medical students only.

*2.* No one can be admitted an ordinary member, without direct solicitation, and any associate may inform the society of his request.

*“ 3.* Every person upon admission, must pay 10s. 6d., and purchase a printed copy of the laws.

*“ 4.* The above form must be observed for the re-admission of such as have seceded; and they must pay one-half of the original entry-money on again becoming members.

*“ 5.* Every new member must sign the following obligation:—‘ We, whose names are underwritten, bind and oblige ourselves, that we will, to the utmost of our power, promote the interests and honour of this society; and that we will never agree to any measures destructive of its institution.’

*“ 6.* The attendance of ordinary members must be regular.

*“ 7.* It is their privilege to vote the admission of members of every class.

*“ 8.* No one can be admitted as an ordinary member, until he has studied medicine four months. And between the time of his being proposed, and the time of being balloted for, he must be examined by a committee of the society (of which the two presidents are members), who are to report to the society before the balloting.

*“ 9.* The secretary must be present at the meeting.

of every committee, to take down and lay before the society, the questions proposed by the committee to the intransigent member, together with his answers."

As a medical school, Aberdeen does not rank very high, and it is scarcely to be expected that it should, as long as the medical chairs of both colleges are *sinecures*, which is the case at present; and it is a gross abuse that ought to be corrected—Several of the gentlemen of the profession are as eminent as any to the north of the Forth, both for their knowledge in the theory and practice of medicine, and for their acquirements in literature; but there are others of such humble pretensions, as may be found in any country village.

*Dispensaries.*—There are two institutions of this description in Aberdeen. The one, under the care of Dr. Dyce; and the other, under that of Dr. Selbie. In the first, the number of patients last year, was 449; of whom 424 were cured, six died, and under cure, there were nineteen, on the 7th June, 1810. In the second, the number of patients was 584; of whom 497 were cured; 14 relieved; four incurable; 10 sent to the hospital; 15 died; and 44 were under cure.

*Vaccine Institution.*—This valuable institution was established in the year 1803. The provost of Aberdeen is governor, and there is a numerous list of managers for conducting its affairs. Dr. James Allan is operator, who performs inoculation gratis, at the poor's hospital, every Wednesday and Saturday.

*Friendly*



*Friendly Societies.*—The most considerable of the numerous associations in Aberdeen, are, the *Shipmaster Society*; *Narrow Wynd*; *Shiprow*; *St. Andrew's*; *St. James's*; *True Blue Gardeners*; and the *Barbers and Wigmakers*.

The *Shipmaster's* is the most ancient, having been originally incorporated by king James VI. in the year 1600, and again, by king George III. in 1801. This society is very rich, and their decayed members receive a corresponding allowance.

The *Narrow Wynd Society* was first erected in 1660; and its members are numerous, as well as highly respectable. To illustrate the nature of these institutions, it may not be improper to quote the printed rules and regulations of the *Narrow Wynd Friendly Society*.

“ This society was originally formed in the year 1660, for the occasional relief of the poor in general, but chiefly the widows and orphans of those who then did, or should afterwards become members, in case their circumstances required it. Some years thereafter, the records and whole papers of the society were lost by an accidental fire in the *Narrow-wynd*; and in the years of scarcity and dearth about the end of the last century, the whole stock of the society was expended for relief of the poor, and for burying the dead.

“ In September 1707, several well-disposed gentlemen formed the society of new upon the former plan, and under the same designation, which has been continued from that time, for the purpose of establishing

a fund for an annual relief to decayed necessitous members, their widows and children, by voluntary contributions; and many since that time have got a supply therefrom.

“ 1. It is therefore resolved, that the society be continued, and that the produce of the stock or fund, and annual contributions, with the exceptions aftermentioned, be appropriated and applied for the mutual relief and maintenance of all and every the members thereof, in old age, sickness, and infirmity, or for the relief of the widows and children of deceased members annually: That it shall be known under the name and designation of **THE NARROW WYND FRIENDLY SOCIETY**; and that those who are under the above description, who are found entitled to the benefit of the fund by the society, as after-provided, shall share equally and proportionally, without one being preferred to another.

“ 2. That the official managers of the society shall be composed of a preses, treasurer, and twelve assessors, who shall be elected from among the annual contributing members of the society, annually, by a free election or ballot, at the general meeting of the society, which is to be held for that purpose upon the Wednesday immediately preceding Michaelmas yearly, at six o'clock in the evening, and in one of the principal inns, or such public hall within the town of Aberdeen, as the preses for the time being shall think proper to fix, by an advertisement in the Aberdeen Journal, at least eight days before the general meeting; it being understood, that the preses and treasurer shall continue in office only one year: That the election.

tion shall be made by the members putting their marks or initials to the end of such name on the leet as they shall approve, under the inspection of such number of scrutineers as the society shall appoint.

“ 3. That, for the better conducting the business of the society, a clerk shall be chosen by the society from among the members, whose business it shall be to attend all the meetings of the society—to make up the treasurer’s annual accompts—and to keep a regular and distinct sederunt book, in which he shall regularly minute and enter all the orders, resolutions, and transactions of the society, which shall be patent to every member. In this book shall be regularly entered and recorded the admission of every member; and the names of those found entitled to the benefit of the fund,—he being allowed such salary for his trouble as the society shall think adequate: That all resolutions and orders of the society, in general meetings assembled, shall be fairly extended, read over to the society, and signed by the president’s initials, in presence of the society.

“ 4. That the society shall appoint a person to officiate as officer, whose duty it shall be to attend the general meetings of the society, or private meetings of the preses, treasurer, and assessors, and to obey their orders and directions in that capacity—he being allowed such salary for his trouble as the society shall think proper.

“ 5. That the preses, treasurer, and assessors, for the time being, shall be a standing committee for the purpose of directing the way and manner, and the securities

rities upon which the funds of the society shall be laid out, as well as the application of the funds ; subject, nevertheless, to the review and controul of the society ; and five of the members of such committee, at least, shall at all times be necessary to concur in any act of such committee ; and all acts and orders of such committee, under the powers hereby delegated to them, shall have the like force and effect, as the acts and orders of such society at any general meeting thereof ; the preses, or in his absence, the treasurer, being always of the number.

“ 6. That all monies, goods, chattels, stocks, annuities, and other transferable securities and effects whatever, belonging to the society, shall be vested in the preses and treasurer of the society for the time being, and their successors in office, preses and treasurer of said society, for the use and benefit thereof, and none others ; and from and after the death or removal of any preses or treasurer, shall vest in the succeeding preses or treasurer, for the same estates and interests, as he or they had therein, and subject to the same trust, without any assignment or transfer whatever.

“ 7. That all questions and matters coming before the society relative to their affairs, shall be determined by a majority of the members present, and, in case of an equality, the preses, or chairman for the time, shall be entitled to the casting vote, besides his own deliberative vote. In the absence of the preses for the time, the treasurer shall preside ; and in the absence of both preses and treasurer, the members present shall have power to appoint a preses for the time being. That  
the

the society, when so convened, shall have power to impose and inflict such reasonable fines and forfeitures, not exceeding five shillings sterling, upon any member or members who shall offend against the present regulations, as shall be just and necessary for duly enforcing the same, or for keeping regularity in the society—such fines and forfeitures being always added to the funds.

“ 8. That the treasurer shall always keep the society’s writs, securities, and papers of importance,—receive in annual contributions, and entry-money from new members,—and divide and pay away the money allocated for those entitled to the benefit of the fund, agreeably to the directions of the society, or their committee : That the treasurer’s accounts shall be fitted and cleared annually at the general meeting, previous to the election, and the person appointed treasurer shall be obliged to find security, in terms of the statute, for his intromissions and faithful management, if found necessary, or insisted upon by any ten members present at his election, before he enter upon his office : That all the writs, vouchers of debts, securities, and other deeds of importance, shall be deposited in a chest having three keys, one whereof shall be kept by the preses, one by the treasurer, and another by the clerk.

“ 9. That the admission dues of every person desiring to be admitted a member of this society, shall be one guinea ; but it shall be in the power of the society, at any general meeting, to increase the entry-money as the funds advance : That no person shall be admitted but at the annual general meeting of the society ; and

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it shall be certified by a majority of the committee for the time being, that he is a person of good character, worthy to be admitted a member, and his application for admission shall be given in to the preses, at least ten days before the annual general meeting. And any person who shall be refused by the committee, shall have it in his power to apply to the first meeting, who shall, in the same mode as is proposed for the election of office-bearers, reject or admit by vote and scrutiny.

“ 10. Each member of the society already admitted, and each member who shall hereafter be admitted, shall, at the annual general meeting, contribute and pay to the treasurer, two shillings sterling; and any member who shall fail to pay for three years, if residing within the town of Aberdeen, shall be considered as no longer a member of the society, and he, and his family, in the event of his death, shall forfeit every benefit from the funds: That each member shall also pay a crown on his marriage, and one shilling for each child of such marriage, to be added to the funds of the society.

“ 11. That those who shall be entitled to the benefit of the funds, are decayed necessitous members, in old age, sickness, and infirmity, and the necessitous widows and children of deceased members.

“ 12. That no decayed member, his widow or children, shall be entitled to receive any benefit from the funds of the society, unless such member shall have regularly paid his annual contribution, and other dues, thereto, for the space of seven years; but declaring, that in case of the death of any member, before these  
years

years are expired, his widow and children shall have power to pay up such annual contribution as the member has been deficient, so as to complete the said seven years contribution; but this must be done before the application for the benefit of the funds.

“ 13. That no child or children shall be entitled to the benefit of the fund, in the event of a widow of the father of such child or children, being on the funds at the same time, nor after their attaining fourteen years of age, unless from bodily or mental infirmities they shall be incapable of earning their bread; in which case, the committee of managers shall have power to continue the annual allowance: That no person shall be entitled to this benefit, unless it is certified by two or more of the assessors for the time being, or the society at large, that such person is, to the best of their knowledge and information, an object deserving the benefit of the funds.

“ 14. That it shall be in the power of the society, or their committee of managers for the time, to make such addition to the stock or funds of the society, as the state of the poor will admit of; it being always understood, that some addition shall be made annually to the stock, and that in no case shall any encroachment be made upon it.

“ 15. That any widow on the fund marrying again, shall forfeit her benefit therefrom, and no member on the funds shall be entitled to elect, or be elected an office-bearer or assessor; nor have any vote in the direction of the society, so long as he continues on the funds.

" 16. That, in case of any dispute between the society, or the committee of managers, and any individual member of the society, the matter so in dispute shall and may be referred to such three arbitrators of character in the place, as shall be named and elected by a majority of said committee ; and whatever award, order, or determination, shall be made by said arbitrators, or the major part of them, according to the true purport and meaning of these rules and regulations, shall be binding and conclusive on all parties.

" 17. That no part of the funds of the society shall, on any pretence, be applied to any other purpose than the charitable uses for which the society is formed, and the necessary expence of management, under the penalty of a dissolution of the society, or such other penalty, or pecuniary mulct, as may be imposed, upon the complaint of the procurator-fiscal of the peace, for misconduct or other misdemeanour, or at the instance of any one or more of the members of the society.

" 18. That none of the preceding rules, orders, or regulations, shall be altered, rescinded, or repealed, unless with the consent and approbation of three-fourths of the members of the society, at two subsequent general meetings, such general meetings being called by public notice in writing, signed by authority of the society, in terms of the act.

" 19. That all the preceding rules, orders, and regulations, shall be forthwith entered in the sederunt book of the society, and all members to be hereafter admitted, shall subscribe the same at their admission,

by



by which they shall be strictly bound to the same, under the penalty of five pounds sterling \*."

*Society for the benefit of the families of Clergymen.*—This useful institution was established about twenty years ago. It is supported by yearly subscriptions—the interest of money presented to it—and the collection arising from an annual sermon. At the last general meeting, June 21st, 1811, the society distributed L.104 among eighteen indigent families of deceased clergymen of the established church. The families of professors in the universities, and of ministers of chapels of ease, are also included within the sphere of its usefulness. The society has of late received large subscriptions, raised among gentlemen in India, connected with the county, or friendly to their charitable design; but they have still to regret, that they have never yet been able to grant donations nearly adequate to the wants of those who have applied to them for relief.

The affairs of the society are managed by a president, a committee of members, and a secretary and treasurer.

*Mason-Lodges.*—In the following list, the lodges are ranked according to seniority, viz.

*Aberdeen Lodge*, consisting of from 2 to 300 members.

*St. Machar's*, do. do. 20 to 30 do.

*St. Nicolas*, do. do. 150 to 200 do.

*St. Andrew's*, do. of about 200 do.

*Old Aberdeen*, do. do. 100 do.

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\* There are about forty of these friendly societies in Aberdeen.

*St. Luke's*, consisting of about 240 members.

*Operative*, do. of do. 300 do.

*St. James's*, do. of do. 100 do.

*St. George's*, do. of do. 200 do.

Contributing members pay 4s. each annually; and the entry-money varies in the different lodges from £1 10s. to £3 3s. sterling. Besides the above, there is attached to each lodge, a number of honorary members, who pay upon entry about the half of what is charged from the contributing members, and they are entitled to no share of the funds.

The funds of the respective lodges are laid out in purchasing houses in Aberdeen; and they hold property among them to the amount of about £10,000 sterling. Superannuated members receive from 30s. to 40s. annually; widows and orphans somewhat less; and sick members, from 2s. to 3s. weekly. When a member dies, L.20 are allowed towards defraying funeral expences.

Masonic associations are not held in so much repute now as formerly. While they were merely social meetings, they were perfectly harmless, but when politics were introduced in their discussions, they degenerated into conventicles for the propagation of dangerous doctrines. On the continent, they have been very generally suppressed, and in this country they can scarcely be kept alive, notwithstanding their anxiety to obtrude themselves on the notice of the public, by their quarrels and squabbles\*. The ceremonies,

\* See the dispute between the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and some of the other lodges in Edinburgh.

monies, and all the mummerly of initiation into the mysteries of masonry, at least as far as the three degrees, are quite harmless, but may be considered as trifling; and it is sufficiently preposterous in masons to pretend to secrets important either to themselves, or to mankind. Their lives and conduct prove them to be no better members of society than other men, and therefore, it becomes a fair conclusion, that they are not in possession of any thing which gives them the smallest superiority over the rest of mankind. A few childish ceremonies, which are varied according to circumstances, obscure tales, and a senseless jargon, can never be valuable to society, but may be made mysterious by the exaction of awful oaths. This, indeed, is the most objectionable part of the whole, as oaths should be applied only to matters of magnitude; and in this case they are unnecessary for the purpose of enforcing secrecy, as there is very little chance of the initiated exposing themselves to ridicule by the disclosure of their own folly. It may be said also, that drinking wine out of a human scull is somewhat indecent; but as this ceremony properly belongs to the *Templars*, a man may be initiated in the simple degrees without the necessity of drinking from such a cup. But so little interesting is free masonry to its members, that perhaps not twenty in Aberdeen could carry a *novice* through the common forms of the order.

Continental free masonry, according to Robinson\*, derived its origin from the English school, and was

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propagated.

\* See Introduction to "Proofs of a Conspiracy," &c.

propagated with great success by artful adventurers, who turned it into a source of private emolument. But the simple form of English masonry did not suit the enthusiasm of the votaries of mysticism in France and Germany, and they ingrafted upon it much nonsense of their own, of rather a dangerous tendency, which finally awakened the vigilance of the ruling powers, but too late to avert the mischief that had been engendered.

German masonry was constituted purely on the English system, and although the French had also received their instruction from the same source; yet their ardour, and love of novelty, led them to refine upon it, by introducing various higher degrees unknown to the mother lodge in London. Emissaries from the French school soon overspread Germany, and the brethren were bewildered by the different systems taught by impostors. One delusion was so quickly followed by another, that they knew not what to believe; and, tired with a succession of absurdities, they wisely resolved to find out the true source of masonry. This, however, was an arduous pursuit, as no man knew where to direct his inquiries: but it was imagined that the secrets they so earnestly desired, were to be found only in the wilds of Scotland. Ambassadors were accordingly dispatched to Aberdeen. They had been led to believe, that the doctors in the Old Town were the depositaries of all that was valuable in masonry. The doctors were astonished: and great was the mortification of the deputies, when they found that the learned men could neither convert base metal  
into

into gold, nor raise the devil, nor even knew any thing farther about masonry than "the simple tale of old Hiram." The degrees of apprentice, fellow-craft, and master, comprised the whole of the modest masonry of the Aberdeen dectors, who could never be accused of possessing the *second sight* !

As charitable institutions, masonic societies are highly praiseworthy ; and in their social meetings, they are as harmless as county clubs, or civic dinner parties. While they confined themselves to the proper business of the lodge, there could have been no objection to them ; but when other topics were encouraged, the secrecy observed enabled intriguing men to insinuate opinions hostile to morality and good government ; at least, such was said to be the case in the continental lodges : and therefore, *illumination*, with all the airy superstructure which had been raised on simple masonry, was abolished.

To those who are totally unacquainted with masonry, the following copy of a knight-templar's diploma, may be a curiosity ; and it certainly shews a little of that blasphemous nonsense which prevails among these sons of mysticism.

" In the Name of the Holy Undivided Trinity,

" *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

" WE, the High Priest, Captain-General, and  
 " Grand Master of a *Royal Arch* excellent, and Sir  
 " *Knights Templars* encampment, held under the sanc-  
 " tion of *St. James's Lodge*, N<sup>o</sup>. 165 on the registry of  
 " Scotland, DO certify, that our trusty and well-be-  
 loved:

" loved brother, Worshipful A—— B——, after  
 " having passed the chair of the said Lodge, was by  
 " us regularly initiated in the sublime degrees of a  
 " *Royal Arch* excellent mason, and subsequently dub-  
 " bed a *Knight* of the most ancient and right honour-  
 " able order of *Knight Templars*, having withstood  
 " with skill, fortitude, and valour, the amazing trials  
 " attending his admission.—Given under our hands  
 " and seals of our Encampment, at our General As-  
 " sembly, this            day of            1811, and  
 " of *Light*, 5841.

*Signed, A. B.—H. P.*

*C. D.—C. G.*

*E. F.—G. M.*

*G. H.—Secretary.*

**Barracks.**—The barracks are erected on the castle-  
 hill. The building commenced in 1794, and was  
 finished in 1796, and the expence of erection and fit-  
 ting up, amounted to about L.16,000. They are cal-  
 culated to contain 46 soldiers' rooms, exclusive of the  
 officers' apartments, and rated to hold 542 men. An  
 hospital was built in the year 1799; which cost about  
 L.2000. Captain Fullerton is barrack-master, and the  
 salary attached to his office, is about equal to a cap-  
 tain's pay in the army, besides coal, candle, and sta-  
 tionary. Several of the soldiers' apartments are used  
 as store-rooms, and the lower flat is occupied with a  
 mess-room, cellars, &c.

*Bridewell.*—

*Bridewell.*—From the increasing population of the city and county of Aberdeen, and consequent increase of delinquents, a plan was suggested for their solitary confinement; and accordingly, an act of parliament was applied for and obtained in 1802, for building and maintaining a house of correction, for the city and county of Aberdeen.

This building was finished in 1809, and opened for the reception of culprits of both sexes, on Monday the 2d day of October. It stands on the rising ground to the west of the town, near the chapel of ease, surrounded with a wall 14 feet high, enclosing a garden and airing grounds, for the use of the prisoners. The house consists of five floors; the upper one of which is used as an hospital and store-rooms. A gallery or passage in each floor, runs the whole length of the house, having at each end a large Venetian window. On one side of this gallery are the cells allotted for labour—eleven in number; each lighted by two long narrow windows: and on the other side, are the bed-chambers, fourteen in number, having each one window of the same dimensions as the others. Each prisoner is therefore accommodated with two separate apartments—a plan which tends much to the health and cleanliness of the prisoners. An additional building projects from the centre, of the same height with the main house; in which there are the governor's apartments, kitchen, committee-room, chapel, and surgeon's apartments. The whole building cost ten thousand five hundred pounds, which, with the annual expence,

expence, is to be defrayed by an assessment on the inhabitants of the city and county.

The management of the bridewell is conducted by a governor appointed by the commissioners, who, at their periodical meetings, visit and inspect the different prisoners under his charge, in order to enquire into, and redress, if necessary, any complaint that may be made against his mode of treatment. The prisoners are employed in such labour as they are capable of performing. An exact account is kept of the wages of their labour, and the balance, after defraying the expence of their maintenance, is paid to them by two instalments: the first, when the period of their confinement expires; and the other, six months after, upon producing a certificate of proper behaviour.

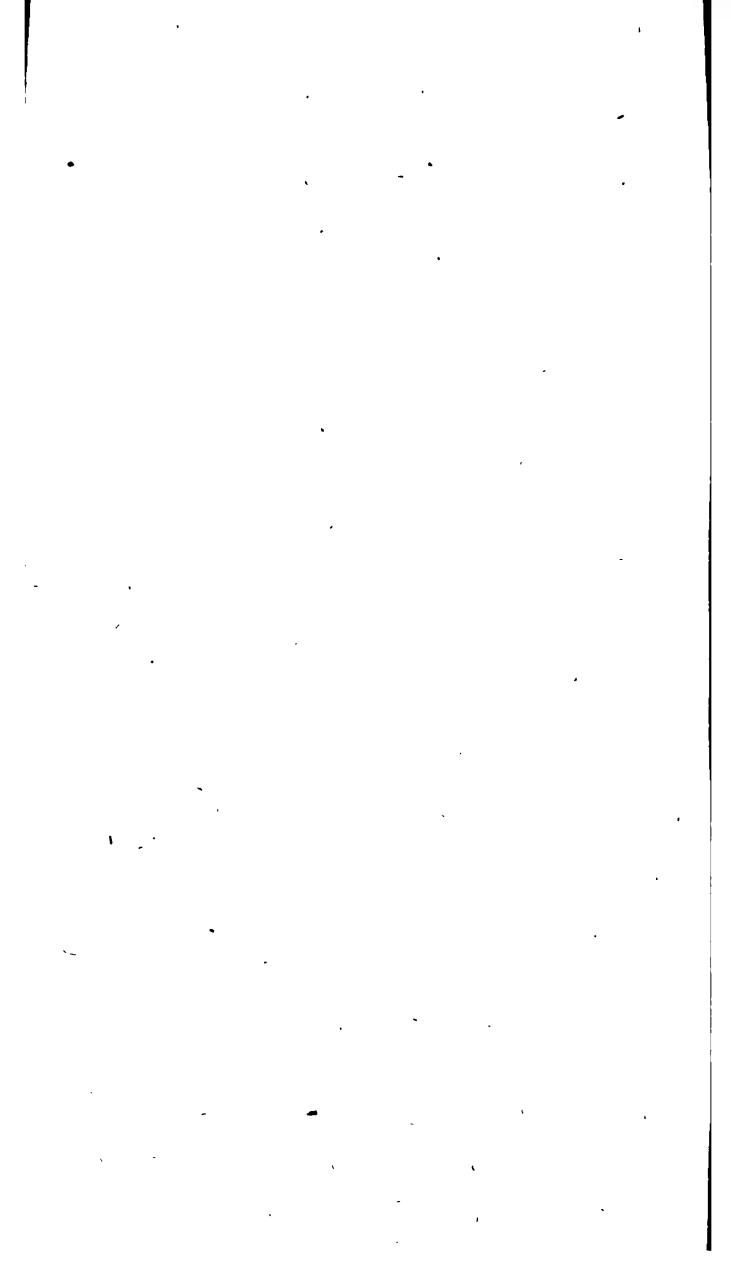
The bye-laws and regulations drawn up by the commissioners for the internal management and economy of the bridewell, provide sufficiently for the restraint and security, as well as for the cleanliness and health of the prisoners.

Justices and magistrates are empowered to inspect the bridewell as often as they may think proper, and to report any abuses which may be discovered to the quarter sessions. Visiting justices are also appointed by the quarter sessions to examine into the state of the house, the treatment and condition of the prisoners, &c.

This institution is likely to be productive of much benefit to the town and county of Aberdeen, as it is sufficiently adapted for the purposes of labour and solitary confinement, which, blended with religious instruction,



instruction, have been found, in institutions of the kind which have been established in other populous towns, the best means yet devised to answer one great end of punishment—the amendment of the offender.—Sir G. O. Paul, of Gloucestershire, says, that “confinement to punish, should also be confinement to reform. It should be a state of continued occupation, and of complete seclusion from the society of former friends and associates: by the one, a habit of industry is created; by the other, reflection is forced on the mind.”—To make the Aberdeenshire bridewell productive of such salutary effects, has been the constant aim of the commissioners, as appears from the construction, and the mode of the internal management of the house; and if they are seconded in their exertions by a steady and vigorous co-operation of the justices and magistrates, the objects of the establishment may be completely accomplished, to the great advantage of the town and county of Aberdeen.



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## CHAPTER V.

### CONTENTS.

[INCORPORATED TRADES—SOCIETY OF ADVOCATES.]

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### INCORPORATED TRADES.

**T**HE trades of Aberdeen are incorporated into one body, which consists of the following seven branches, viz. *Hammermen, Bakers, Wrights and Coopers, Tailors, Shoemakers, Weavers, and Fleshers*. One convener presides over the whole ; but each has a deacon, and other officers, respectively, for its government, and the management of the affairs of the trade. One of the established ministers of the town is elected patron, and invested with certain powers of superintendence, in compliance with the mortification of Dr. Guild, who was a liberal benefactor to the corporations\*.

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\* Dr. Shirrefs' Life of Dr. Guild, p. 39.

It is mentioned in the records of the convener-court, for the year 1632, that "Dr. William Guild, pastor of Aberdeen, and patron of the traids of the said burgh, did mortifie and bestow several annuities and casualties; and in particular, did bestow somewhat freely, in assisting the foresaid traids, to build and repair their meeting-house [hall] and chapel, and for that effect did appoynt that a faithful, Christian, honest man (one of the said traids), shall be chosen yearlie, by advice of the patren, and his successors, as patrons, with consent of the members of the deacon conveyner court, to collect the whole rents and casualties belonging thereto, as he shall be appoynted, by the acts made, or to be made thereanent." In June, next year (1633), the deed of foundation was ratified by royal charter.

The object of the institution is sufficiently illustrated by the preamble to the deed of mortification, which declares, "*Wit ye me, to the glory of God, comfort of the needy, and good example of others, charity to the poor, whom our Lord Jesus Christ, to the end of the world left amongst us, to be nourished, clothed, and fed,—to have founded, gifted, and perpetually mortified to the poor tradesmen of Aberdeen, and by this my present charter, to found, gift, and perpetually mortify to them, all and hail the place or monastery of the Holy Trinity of the burgh of Aberdeen, &c.—to be an hospital for the poor old, tradesmen of the burgh, to be sustained in the same, who shall be of good fame, and not redacted to poverty through their own vice, or*"  
*"drunkenness"*

*“ drunkenness or intemperance ; and therefore that none  
 “ be brought into the said hospital, or receive of the  
 “ fruits of the said mortification, but good, holy, and  
 “ sober men.”*

Dr. Guild, constantly bent on objects of beneficence, at an after period (15th September, 1655), bequeathed a legacy to the corporations, as follows:—“ That  
 “ out of the charitable disposition he had to the poor,  
 “ and in obedience to the Lord’s precepts, 1 Tim. vi.  
 “ 17. and Heb. xiii. 16. he bound and obliged him,  
 “ and his heirs allennarly, to the master of hospital,  
 “ deacon convener of the crafts of Aberdeen for the  
 “ time, and remanent deacons, to pay to them the  
 “ sum of *five thousand merks* Scots money, at the next  
 “ term after his decease, for the entertaining of three  
 “ poor boys who are craftsmens sons, as bursars in the  
 “ new college of Aberdeen, who are good ingynges,  
 “ and able for the said college, and either have not  
 “ parents to put them to the college, or whose parents  
 “ are poor, and known to be unable to maintain them  
 “ thereat : But if it should please his heirs rather to  
 “ denude themselves of the heritable right which he  
 “ had of his fore-house in the Castlegate, wherein he  
 “ himself dwelt, and brew-house (or victual-house)  
 “ with the room above, on the other side of the close,  
 “ rather than to pay the five thousand merks, in that  
 “ case, he bound and obliged his heirs to denude them-  
 “ selves of the heritable right of the said house, in  
 “ favour of the trades, for the use fore-named, the  
 “ infestment to be on the expence of the mortifier of  
 “ the Trinity Hospital, reserving to the mortifier’s

" wife, her life-rent of the house.—If any variance  
 " should be concerning the bestowing of any of these  
 " burses, the eldest minister of Aberdeen (as the most  
 " conscientious to see mortifications go right), to de-  
 " cide therein.—And that impartially the said benefit  
 " be bestowed, out of the rents of the house, upon the  
 " unblest in means, and the best qualified in gifts, as  
 " they shall answer to God; which house in all time  
 " coming (that it, nor the rents thereof, be not per-  
 " verted to any other use), to be called the *Burser's*  
 " *House*; and when any of them are laureat, they by  
 " writing, to oblige themselves, for the benefits re-  
 " ceived, when God enables them, to add to this mor-  
 " tification; and this their writing to be carefully  
 " kept in the master of hospital's box, either by it-  
 " self, or rather in a book made for the purpose, who  
 " (the master of hospital) shall set the house, by ad-  
 " vice of the convener and deacons, and uptake the  
 " rents thereof, and to be conjunct with them in the  
 " patronage and election of said bursars."

Dr. Guild, a short time before he died, bequeathed,  
 in the year 1657, seven thousand merks, " to be se-  
 " cured on land by the town-council and kirk-session  
 " of Aberdeen, the yearly profit of which to be ap-  
 " plied for the sustentation of poor orphans—to hold  
 " them at schools or trades impartially, without in-  
 " verting any way this mortification, as they shall an-  
 " swer to God."

The several corporations assemble in their hall at  
 particular times, to hold their courts, in which the  
 deacons of each preside. The *convener courts* also

meet

meet in this place, and they are constituted by the convener, deacons, and certain representatives from the corporations\*.

About the year 1771, it was resolved by the corporations to establish a fund for a provision to the widows of tradesmen, which was accordingly accomplished, and much benefit has resulted from this benevolent measure. But, independently of the general fund, each corporation has its peculiar institution for the same humane purpose; and one of the most considerable belongs to the tailor trade.

Mr. James Milne bequeathed a legacy "for the use and behoof of the sons of decayed freemen of the *Tailor trade*, for instructing them in *reading, writing, and accounting*, and *binding them apprentices* to trades within the burgh of Aberdeen, the names of *Milne* and *Lilly* to be preferred."—At present, the poor persons deriving benefit from the funds of the tailor trade, consist of seventeen superannuated members; fifteen widows; and thirteen children;—among whom there is distributed annually not less a sum than from L.260 to L.270 sterling; besides, from 130 to 140 bolls of coals, and some occasional donations.

As a specimen of the mode of electing the office-bearers, and managing the affairs of the corporations, the following account, relating to the tailors, is presented to the reader.

The corporation of tailors at present, consists of 46 members, regularly qualified and admitted, who are annually called about Michaelmas, to elect a deacon.

M 3.

and

\* Shirrefs' Life of Guild, p. 94.

and other office-bearers. The deacon is first elected by a majority of votes: he then gives in a list of six members; the old deacon presenting at same time, a list of five. From these eleven tailors, five are elected to serve as masters, and a boxmaster is chosen from the masters, two of whom are proposed as candidates by the deacon. The duty of the boxmaster is to collect and disburse the monies belonging to the corporation throughout the year, which he does without any salary or reward whatever.—At Michaelmas next year, the boxmaster presents his accounts, which are read over in presence of the whole trade; and a committee of seven members is appointed to inspect and compare them with the vouchers, when, if right, they are attested by these auditors.

*Society of Advocates*—The society of advocates in Aberdeen is of high antiquity; and it appears by their records of matriculation, that from the year 1549 to 1600, no fewer than 52 members were admitted as practitioners before the courts. They received a renewal of their charter in May 1709, which confirmed their privileges, and established them into a corporate body. The regulations by which they are governed, are contained in a set of *bye-laws* adopted by the society on the 10th of June, 1799, which they ordain to be strictly observed in future by every member of the society.

“ I. The funds of the society being destined for the aid and support of the decayed and indigent members thereof, their widows, children, and other relations, as  
after.



after specified; the same shall in future be applied solely for these purposes, in terms of the charter."

II. The amount of the distributions are limited to the ~~year~~ yearly produce of their funds: "nor shall they be obliged to distribute, in one year, any more of said free produce than to them may appear necessary for answering charitable purposes."

III. The order of preference of the distribution is established to be, "First, To decayed indigent members; Secondly, To the indigent widows of deceased members; Thirdly, To the indigent children, and failing them, grandchildren of deceased members; and, Fourthly, To the indigent parents, or brothers and sisters of the deceased members, and children of such brothers and sisters. Providing, that while any person in a prior class shall receive aid from the funds of the society, none more remote, claiming under the same member, shall have any benefit from the funds."

IV. The distribution can only be made at the annual general meeting, held on the last Tuesday of November; and all applications for assistance from the funds, must be made, at least one month previously to the meeting, otherwise the consideration of them is deferred until next general meeting in November, unless in cases of urgent necessity; and it is also provided, that a general meeting may be called to grant an interim supply, not exceeding £.10, when circumstances occur of such a nature as to require it.

V. "No person already admitted, or to be hereafter admitted a member of the society, shall be entitled to the benefit of their funds, either for himself, his widow,

or

or relations, until after the expiry of seven years from the date of his admission as a member."

VI. The amount of the payment of each member of the society, is fixed at L.1 : 7 : 6 sterling annually, for the benefit of the funds, and 2s. 6d. for the maintenance of the library, under the penalty of 30s. besides the annual contribution. Failing to pay for two consecutive years, exposes the member either to a prosecution for arrears and penalties, or to expulsion from the society; in which case, his interest in the funds, and that of his family ceases.

VII. "The society, in terms of their charter, shall hold two general meetings yearly, one on the last Tuesday of June, and the other on the last Tuesday of November; at the last of which they shall elect a president and treasurer for the ensuing year, and a committee of five members for giving their advice and direction in managing the funds. The meeting shall also appoint a committee of five members, along with the president and treasurer, for the purpose of examining such candidates as may apply to be admitted members of the society."

VIII. The president, or any five or more of the members, have the power to call a general meeting of the society at any time as occasion may require; provided such meeting is duly intimated by the officer of the society to every member resident in Aberdeen at the time, by printed or written tickets, expressing the object of the meeting.

IX. The society's books and accounts consist, 1. Of a sederunt-book, in which are to be regularly recorded

a copy of their charter, their future bye-laws, regulations, orders, and minutes. 2. A book of accounts, containing a description of the society's property and funds, with a statement of their cash transactions. 3. A matriculation book for the members, to record the names of the former, the present, and future members of the society. " 4th, A matriculation book for apprentices, in which shall in like manner be entered the names of all the present and former apprentices of members of the society, in life (so far as can be discovered), who, by the regulations, are entitled to apply to be received as members, as herein after enacted; and in which shall also from time to time be matriculated the names of all apprentices coming under regular indentures to any member of this society in future, and the commencement of their apprenticeships: which several books shall be kept by the treasurer of the society for the time."

X. This regulation relates to the keeping of the society's charters, title-deeds, bonds, writings of importance, &c.

XI. XII. and XIII. These regulations define the treasurer's duty in regard to the society's heritable subjects, amount of funds, lending the money on interest, &c.

XIV. "None of the society's lands, tenements, or other heritable property, shall be sold, feued out, or let in tack for any number of years, but by public roup, after due notification in the Aberdeen Journal, and after the upset price, feu duty or rent, and endurance of the lease to be granted, shall have been previously fixed by a general meeting of the society; and failing  
offerers

offerers at such a roup, then the committee of funds shall have power to conclude a private bargain, not under the price, feu-duty, or rent, so fixed by the society."

XV. Every member of the society before taking an apprentice, must intimate to the committee of examiners his intention in writing, containing the name of the person proposed, and his age; at the same time producing a "certificate of the said apprentice having studied Latin under some master of character, for at least four years successively, and two sessions at one of the universities." The committee being satisfied of the eligibility of the apprentice, he must be indented for not less than five years, and pay a fee of at least twenty-five guineas\*.

XVI. XVII. and XVIII. When the indenture is executed, it must be produced to the treasurer, in order to be entered in the matriculation-book for apprentices, for which a charge is made of L.1 : 11 : 6 sterling, whereof L.1 : 1s. shall be applied to the funds of the society, and the remainder to the library-fund." In the event of the death of any member, or of his retiring from business, his apprentices are permitted to serve out their time with any other member, whose discharge is equivalent to that of his original master. The commencement of his apprenticeship being reckoned from the date of the treasurer's receipt, for the above L.1 : 11 : 6 sterling.

XIX. Any person applying for admission into the  
society,

\* The apprentice fees have been since reduced to L.18 18s.

society, who has served three years, if his apprenticeship has commenced before the 22d of January 1791, and if he be regularly qualified, is received, on paying 40 guineas of entry-money for the funds of the society, and two guineas more to the library-fund. " But if such apprenticeship has commenced after the 22d of January 1791, and before the passing of these regulations, the person applying to be admitted, besides such receipt, must also produce his indenture discharged by the member he has served, bearing his having served him four years at least posterior to the date of said receipt ; and shall thereupon be admitted, on payment of the foresaid sum of L.42 sterling."

XX. If the apprenticeship of the candidate applying for admission, shall have commenced subsequent to the date of these regulations, he must pay of entry-money to the funds, L.63 sterling, and three guineas to the library-fund.

XXI. The sons of members are received on paying L.31 10s. to the funds of the society, and L.1 : 11 : 6 to the library-fund.

XXII. Any person regularly qualified, who may have married a daughter of a member, is admitted, on the payment of the sums due as the sons of members.

XXIII. Every person desiring to be entered in the society, must " first intimate his intention to the president for the year, and in case of his absence from town, to the treasurer ; and shall deliver to them his petitions to the several judges, with his indenture entered in the books of the society, and duly discharged in terms of these regulations ; and the president, or in his

his absence, the treasurer, shall cause a general meeting of the society to be called, *pro re nata*, and shall lay before them such petitions and indentures; and if at said meeting no objection is offered to the title, or to the character and reputation of the candidate, the president of the meeting shall present the petitions to the sheriff and commissary, for their remits to the committee of examiners; and such remits being granted, the president shall, within three days after the last of them, fix a day, not above six days distant, for a meeting of the said committee, for the purpose of making trial of the candidate's abilities; and shall cause 24 hours previous notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting to be given by the officer of the society, to every member of the committee; at which meeting, if a majority of the committee be present, they shall proceed and take trial of the candidate's knowledge in the municipal laws, form of process before the courts at Aberdeen, and conveyancing: and if they shall find him sufficiently qualified, they shall forthwith sign and deliver to him their report to that purpose. But if the major part of the said committee shall not be present at such meeting, then the candidate's trial shall be deferred; and another day, not above a week distant, fixed for the same purpose, and 24 hours previous notice of the day, hour, and place, given as before; at which last meeting the candidate's trial shall be proceeded in, and finished without further delay, by the members of the committee then present, whatever their number may be, and report thereof shall be made accordingly; the candidate always

ways before or at receiving the report, producing the treasurer's receipt for his entry-money, and fees payable to the library fund."

XXIV. XXV. If any objection is made to a candidate's title or character, he is allowed time (not exceeding one month), to repel such objection; but if the same be not finally received, no remit can be applied for: and if, after the remit and trial, the committee of examiners shall not be satisfied of the candidate's knowledge, they may either immediately reject him, or defer his trial for a reasonable time.

XXVI. "No person, except members' sons, shall be admitted a member of the society, who has not served a regular apprenticeship, and has complied with the other regulations before-specified; nor any person whatever, under 21, or above 40 years of age, at the time of his application to the society for admission."

XXVII. It is a necessary qualification for admission into this society, that the candidate should be duly admitted a procurator before the sheriff and commissary courts: That his residence should be in the county of Aberdeen; and that he should not at any time have been a messenger at arms, or have exercised that office.

XXIX. Members of this society are prohibited from permitting clerks of court, or any persons whatever, from carrying on business under their names.

XXXIII. The library is placed under the management of a librarian, and a committee of five members, along with the president and treasurer.

XXXIV. Two members are appointed in rotation to act for the poor *gratis*.

XXXV. If any member shall conduct himself improperly, he may be expelled from the society by the votes of three-fourths of the whole : and all penalties which may be levied by the treasurer, must be added to the funds of the society.

The members of this society conduct business before the sheriff, commissary, baillie, and justice-of-peace courts ; but possess no privileges beyond those which are common to the procurators of the other sheriff-courts of Scotland. Although designed *Advocates*, they are not entitled to plead before the supreme courts, or to attend the circuits, unless in the character of agents. The designation of Advocate, at first proceeded from courtesy, and conveyed no valuable or important right whatever ; but it is acknowledged by their last charter, and is merely an honorary title, which they have enjoyed for upwards of two hundred years. The advocates of Aberdeen, however, combine a greater body of legal knowledge and *real talent*, than perhaps could be found in any similar society in the kingdom, exclusive of those in the two metropolitan cities : and on these alone, they have maintained a reputation which requires not the assistance of a title, but is better supported by their fair and honourable conduct.



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## CHAPTER VI.

### CONTENTS:

[MANUFACTURES—COMMERCE—BANKS—CANAL.]

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**T**HE art of manufacturing is known, in some degree, to the most rude societies. The first object to which men direct their attention, is the production of such commodities as their urgent wants require. When they advance in civilization, new habits give birth to new inventions, and the progress of improvement is constantly in proportion to the real or imaginary wants of the society. That perpetual stimulus to exertion which arises from the desire to enjoy, operates on the creative faculties of man, and suggests schemes of improvement. But in the manipulations of the manufactory, the division of labour has produced the most important consequences. "The greatest improvement," says Dr. Smith, "in the productive powers

“ of labour, and the greater part of the skill, dexterity, and judgment, with which it is anywhere directed or applied, seem to have been the effects of the division of labour,” because, first, “ The division of labour, by reducing every man’s business to some one simple operation, and by making this operation the sole employment of his life, necessarily increases very much the dexterity of the workman.”—Secondly, “ The advantage which is gained by saving the time commonly lost in passing from one sort of work to another, is much greater than we should at first view be apt to imagine it ;” and, thirdly, “ Labour is facilitated and abridged by the application of proper machinery,” the discovery of which “ seems to have been originally owing to the division of labour\*.”

Notwithstanding the great importance of the division of labour, it cannot be so easily understood by a rude society ; as it is the means of exchanging the commodities produced, or, in other words, the extent of the market, that gives occasion to this improvement. It is only the spare produce of labour that can be offered for sale ; and the exchange of one commodity for another, depends upon the reciprocal wants of the consumers. It therefore requires the union and co-operation of men, as subsisting in civilized society, to give efficacy to that principle which supports manufactures conducted by a division of labour. “ In the lone houses and very small villages which are scattered

\* Wealth of Nations, chap. i.

“ scattered about in so desert a country as the High-lands of Scotland, every farmer must be butcher, baker, and brewer for his own family\*.” In every country where population is thin, artificers must perform various sorts of work ; and hence they never acquire great proficiency in any one branch.—This was the case in Scotland, until of late years, that regular manufactories have been established on a plan adapted to the division of labour.

The manufactures of Scotland, previously to the introduction of machinery, were of the coarsest kind, or such as suited only the rude taste of a semi-barbarous nation. But, with the progress of arts, machinery was applied and improved: and so far back as about 150 years, a species of cloth called *fingrams*, was manufactured at Aberdeen for the foreign market, and *seys* and *serges* were made for home consumption. Dr. Skene Keith, in his valuable Survey of Aberdeenshire†, mentions, that the lands of Gilcomston were in the former century, “ an extensive sheep farm, rented by an opulent manufacturer, whose flocks depastured the suburbs which surround the city” of Aberdeen “ on the west, and the meadow of the Denburn.” The wool of the sheep was converted into cloth ; and this gentleman, uniting the characters of sheep-farmer and manufacturer, acquired a considerable fortune.

The knitting of stockings succeeded the manufacture of *fingrams* ; and this branch was carried to its

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greatest

\* Wealth of Nations, chap. i.

† P. 577.

greatest height about 40 years ago. It has since much declined, owing to the want of demand in the continental markets, and the continuance of the war with which Europe has been so long distracted. The linen manufacture is also not now so flourishing as formerly, from the same causes which have operated to injure the stocking trade; and the manufacture of cotton is likewise at present extremely languid.

The three great branches of manufacture carried on at Aberdeen, are the *Woollen, Linen, and Cotton*.

The first may be divided into two distinct kinds: the hosiery, or stocking; and the manufacturing of cloth.

The stocking manufacture is now carried to considerable extent; and Messrs Hadden and Company, are by far the most deeply engaged in the worsted manufacture. They have more than twenty machines wrought by two steam engines; and, besides stockings, they make frocks, mitts, and all sorts of hosiery.

The application of machinery to the woollen manufacture, is of recent date, having commenced in January 1790. Previously to that time, the carding and spinning of wool were performed by the hand; but the introduction of machinery has greatly facilitated these operations; and there is every prospect of the woollen trade becoming an important branch of manufacture in Aberdeen.

Mr. Charles Baird, silk dyer, was the first who successfully introduced machinery in the manufacture of wool. In summer 1789, he went to England; and from Rochdale, brought home, at a considerable expence,

pence, two carding engines, and four spinning jennies, with the other necessary machines. That part of the machinery which required the power of water, was erected at Stoneywood ; but the spinning jennies, broad and narrow looms, &c. were erected in Aberdeen. Wool was then, for the first time in Scotland, manufactured by machinery into *seys*, *serges*, *plaidens*, and other coarse cloths. About 600 pounds were manufactured weekly, for the space of six years, or until 1796, when the machinery was increased to twice the extent ; and accordingly about 1200 pounds a week were produced.

The preparation of wool by hand-cards was now laid aside ; and the different manufacturers in Aberdeen sent their wool to the mills to be carded and roved, and had their different spinning jennies, &c. fitted up in the city, for the purpose of completing the manufacture. The advantage of machinery was now pretty generally known, not only in Aberdeen, but in all the country round, to the distance of thirty miles ; and the quantity of wool brought to the mills to be carded, &c. increased so much, that it became necessary to erect additional machinery. Two engines were therefore added to the original mill at Stoneywood, and a separate mill was erected at Buxburn ; another in the parish of Fintray ; one at Garlogie, parish of Skene ; and another at Gordon's mills, parish of St. Machar. In the year 1799, about 4600 pounds of wool were manufactured weekly by eighteen engines, which supplied the demand from the town and the surrounding district.

The

The superiority of machinery over every other mode of manufacturing wool, was now so fully understood, that those manufacturers in the neighbourhood of Peterhead who had been in the practice of sending their wool to be carded and roved at Stoneywood, erected mills, in the year 1800, for their own accommodation, at Old Deer and Strichen; and so widely are they now extended in the north of Scotland, that mills have been set to work at Huntly, Turriff, Elgin, Forres, Inverness, in Cromarty, and in Caithness.

So rapid has been the increase of this manufacture, that although not a single pound was prepared by machinery in the city of Aberdeen ten years ago, there are now upwards of 6000 pounds produced weekly, which are circulated through the country for the purpose of making stockings, trowsers, jackets, &c. &c.

With regard to cloth, Messrs Crombie, Knowles, and Company, at Cothal-mills, in the parish of Fintray, eight miles from Aberdeen, have produced the best quality: the greater part of which is sent to the south of Scotland for sale. What is sold in Aberdeen is calculated for home consumption, being of that coarse kind which is always in considerable request among the poorer sort of mechanics and day-labourers in the country districts. But the woollen trade is only in its infancy in this part of the kingdom; and we may expect, from the spirit and enterprise of the manufacturers, that it will speedily advance to perfection, to the great benefit of the city and neighbourhood of Aberdeen.

As a branch of the woollen trade, it is necessary to notice the carpet manufactory, which was established in the year 1781, at Bark-mill, by John Burnett, Esq. of Crichtie, merchant in Aberdeen, and was carried on by him and his executors for the space of eight years. The manufactory was afterwards purchased by Messrs Rait and Torry, merchants, who still continue to make a durable fabric, chiefly for the home market.

*Linen Manufacture.*—The manufacture of flax, as conducted at Aberdeen, may be divided into three branches, viz. the making of yarn—of thread—and of cloth.

The manufacture of yarn has, for a long time, been carried to a considerable extent in Aberdeen, particularly the finer kinds from Dutch flax. It is generally made by flaxdressers, who dress the lint to the requisite degree of fineness, and give it out to be spun by the hand-wheel. Many hundred thousand spindles are annually manufactured in this way in the county of Aberdeen, and sold to thread, check, and linen cloth manufacturers in the south of Scotland, and in England. Spinning by machinery is principally confined to coarse sizes of yarn, which is converted into thread and cloth, partly manufactured in Aberdeen; but the greater proportion is sold to canvas manufacturers in Scotland and England.

The most extensive flax spinning mill in the kingdom belongs to Messrs Leys, Mason, and Company, and is situated at Grandholm, on the Don, about two miles from Aberdeen. Last year, the house contained about 240 spinning frames, which on an average might

might throw off from 10,000 to 12,000 spindles of yarn weekly, which at 5s. per spindle, would amount to from £2500 to £3000 sterling. But some part of the machinery was employed in twisting the yarn for coloured thread, as the same company are also very extensive thread manufacturers. They sell part of their heavy yarns, and make the remainder into a species of cloth that is not inferior in quality to the best Russia sheetings, and answers the same purpose. This manufactory, when all its branches are united, is the most extensive of the kind in Britain, and productive of great benefit to the town of Aberdeen, from the employment it gives to labourers, and the circulation of so much money as is required to carry it on.

Another flax spinning mill was erected some years ago in the suburbs of the town, the machinery of which is driven by a steam engine. This mill, although not large, is very complete; the machinery being of the most improved kind, and the yarn produced, of the best quality.

The manufacture of threads, both bleached and coloured, is carried to great extent in Aberdeen. Besides Messrs Leys, Mason, and Company's manufactory, there is another belonging to Messrs Milne, Cruden, and Company, situated in the Gallowgate. The great market for threads of all kinds is London, as the exporters there send them all over the world, as well as supply the country dealers in England. This manufacture, which for more than half a century had been profitable to Scotland, is now much on the decline, owing to the restraining laws of our great enemy,  
who



who has shut the ports of the continent against our manufactures : and owing to the introduction, in the home market, of a better quality of coloured thread, called *Patent*, which is made by the mill spinners of England. Patent threads are made of the finest flax, spun and twisted by machinery : hence they are more even, and stronger than what is produced from hand-spun yarn. The Scottish manufacturers might no doubt rival the English in this article ; but the market is pre-occupied, and the English nation have a strong prejudice in favour of every thing made in their own country. It is certain, that the various attempts to manufacture patent thread in Scotland have failed, except in so far as partly to supply the limited consumption at home. The cheapness of labour formerly in Scotland, gave the Scottish a great advantage over the English thread-manufacturers, and they were driven out of their own markets : but the introduction of machinery has placed them on an equality, and the attention, industry, and consequent skill of the English, have given them the superiority over the manufacturers of this country. Bleached, or stitching threads, which form so valuable a branch of our national manufacture, are also in danger of being supplanted by cotton threads, which answer extremely well for all sorts of fine work, and are now very generally used for sewing linen and cotton fabrics.

The manufacture of linen cloth, which was once the staple commodity of the country, has much declined of late years, from causes connected partly with the political situation of Britain, and partly arising from the

the cheapness of cotton goods. For many purposes to which linen cloth was applied, a substitute has been found in cotton; and the impolicy of our own laws enables foreigners to rival us in our own markets. It has been, in general, a maxim in Britain, to prohibit the importation of manufactured commodities; but in the instance of linen yarn and cloth, that wise system has been disregarded. It may be said, that it is not an easy matter to balance with exact nicety our relations with foreign powers, and that if we should altogether exclude their manufactures, they would naturally reject ours; for it is clear, that a reciprocity of interest is the foundation of all commercial intercourse. If all the nations of the earth were one people, and under one government, it might be imprudent in the legislator to interfere with the fair operations of commerce, as every part of such an empire, however extensive, would be equally entitled to enjoy its natural advantages. But, constituted as are the different states on the face of the globe, it is a prevailing principle among them, to maintain respectively, their particular interests; and hence they grasp at every preference in commerce they deem important. If, therefore, it shall be thought expedient to give our manufacturers a monopoly of our home and colonial markets, there can be no apology for permitting the importation of foreign yarn and cloth, either into Britain, or into its dependencies. But this ruinous practice has obtained the sanction of our government for many years; and our markets, both at home, and in our colonies abroad, have been frequently glutted with the linen manufactures

tures of Germany and Russia, to the great prejudice of the people in Scotland.

Dr. Skene Keith, in his Survey of Aberdeenshire, (p. 587,) informs us, that the "linen manufacture, strictly so called, has of late years, varied considerably in its amount.—In 1808, the most favourable year for a considerable time past, the quantity manufactured was above 300,000 yards. By the official report, the quantity manufactured in 1808, was 314,556 yards, worth £31,000. In 1809, it fell to 102,297 yards, worth L.10,000; and in 1810, it rose to 153,336 yards, worth L.14,000 sterling."—The ingenious and learned writer of the report ascribes the prosperity of this manufacture in the year 1808, to Buonaparte's edicts prohibiting the exportation of any manufactures of flax or hemp; and the decline, in the two subsequent years, he attributes to the revocation of these decrees. The remedy he points out, is, to adopt a prohibitory system on our part; and he emphatically remarks, that "it is very impolitic in our public ministers to permit the importation of the manufactures of linen from those countries in which the manufactures of Britain are confiscated and burnt\*."

o

*Cotton*

\* The author recollects, that amongst Mr. Pitt's wise acts, it was ordered, that smuggled gin, when seized, should be thrown into the tide, by way of checking the contraband trade from Flushing. This was exactly what the smugglers wished, as the destruction of so much spirits, which at all events was lost to them when in the hands of the officers of the revenue, left the market

*Cotton Manufacture.*—The manufacture of cotton has become an object of the greatest importance to Britain, as it consumes the produce of her colonies, and gives employment to many thousand people. There may be an objection to any nation's manufacturing the produce of foreign countries in preference to its own; but our colonial settlements are considered as the offspring of the mother state, which ought to be fostered and encouraged. Whether this be a just view of the subject, or otherwise, it is not our duty to investigate; and it answers our purpose sufficiently, to adopt the commonly received opinions of mankind, by allowing, that Great Britain and her colonies are mutually benefited by their intercourse. The introduction of the cotton manufacture in Aberdeen took place in 1779, by Messrs Gordon, Barron, & Co. who solely carried it on for about 20 years; but it has since widely spread over the country, and is now, when united in all its parts, the most extensive branch of manufacture in the town. Several new companies have been established within these twelve years, and a great number

market *bare*, so that they found a readier sale in the country, at a higher price than formerly. Several hundred ankers were staved at Aberdeen, in consequence of this absurd measure. Tobacco, when seized and condemned, was burned in a kiln, and the ashes sold for behoof of the revenue. Buonaparte's burning system is not more ridiculous than our own of that period; and it is probable, that when our manufactures shall be again received on the continent, the demand will be greatly increased in consequence of that consumption by fire which the irritable disposition of our enemy has so foolishly induced.

number of men, women, and children, are employed in the city and neighbourhood. The most considerable house in this manufacture, with the exception of the original company, is Messrs Forbes, Low, and Company, who have erected a large work, with two steam-engines, close by the Dee, and within the suburbs of the town. There are about 600 persons employed in this manufactory; and besides spinning yarn, and weaving it into cloth, they make sewing-threads of an excellent quality. The first established company, whose works are situated on the banks of the Don, have a printfield, bleachfield, and two cotton-mills. They have brought the art of printing to great perfection. Their colours are fixed and brilliant; and that particular species of goods called Shawls, has acquired a high reputation in England, for colour and quality.

It has been often said, that the genius of the people on the east coast of Scotland, is better adapted for conducting the linen than the cotton manufacture, which they ought not to attempt, but to leave entirely to the inhabitants of the west. The success of the Aberdeen cotton manufacturers, however, fully contradicts this opinion: and there is no physical cause existing, to prevent them from carrying on that manufacture with as great advantage in Aberdeen, as it possibly can be done in Glasgow and Paisley.

Aberdeen, from its local situation, possesses every facility for carrying on all those branches of manufacture which are common to Scotland. Accordingly we find almost every variety of manufacture established

here, which the invention of the people can suggest. It would be tedious, and perhaps uninteresting, to enter minutely into the history of every branch: we shall therefore only slightly notice them.

*Breweries.*—*Gilcomston* brewery is the oldest, and was established in the year 1767. The average quantity brewed for the last three years may be stated at 4500 barrels of strong beer and porter, and 3000 barrels of table beer, per annum.

*Devanha* brewery was established in 1807. It is situated on the banks of the Dee, about a mile from the town. This work is the most extensive in the north of Scotland, and its porter has acquired great celebrity.

*Old Town* brewery, belonging to Messrs Irvine and Company, may be ranked next in point of magnitude; and the quantity they brew, may be stated at 2000 barrels of porter and strong ale, and 1500 barrels of table beer annually. The porter and strong ale of this brewery, are also of a superior quality. There are several other breweries in Aberdeen and its vicinity; and altogether, the quantity they brew, may be estimated at 22,700 barrels of porter, strong ale, and table beer.

*Iron Foundries.*—A work of this kind was first attempted in Aberdeen about 60 years ago, but was soon after laid aside, owing to the difficulty of procuring materials of a proper quality, and the uncertainty of obtaining a regular supply. Those concerned,  
having

having placed their principal dependance on the importation of old metal from Holland, and which could be manufactured only into coarse articles. About the year 1789, another foundry was begun under nearly the same disadvantages, and attended with no better success : for although iron-mines were wrought in the south of Scotland, they were almost exclusively appropriated to the use of the Carron company, which wished to monopolise the manufacture. A few years afterwards, however, more mines were opened by different proprietors, and pig-iron could be easily obtained. A work was erected at Grandholm-mills about the year 1797 ; another in the town, in 1804 : and one since at Ferry-hill. These works manufacture most kinds of articles connected with agriculture, machinery, and domestic purposes.

*Inkle Manufacture.*—This institution is carried on under the name of the *Aberdeen Tape Company*. " Its linen tapes are equal in quality to those " of any manufactory in Britain. Formerly, the " tapes used in this country, were made in Holland ; " but are now made in greater perfection in this city : " and in the present state of Europe, the importation " of foreign tapes, as well as all linen cloth, ought to " be prohibited\*."

*Shipbuilding.*—This business is carried on to considerable extent in Aberdeen. Large vessels calculated

lated for the West India, Mediterranean, American, and Baltic trade, and also for the transport service, have been built at Aberdeen. A number of carpenters are employed in this trade, and in repairing ships and boats of all descriptions. When the harbour improvements are completed, it is to be expected, that the business of shipbuilding will be greatly extended, as the docks will admit vessels of large dimensions, and afford every facility to this valuable and important trade, on which depends our maritime greatness. Rope works are a necessary consequence of shipbuilding, and there are several at Aberdeen, which have been successfully carried on for many years. A manufacture of sailcloth has been established for above twenty years; and although it has not been carried to much extent, yet this branch, so necessary to a trading nation, may be easily increased, as every conveniency for such a manufacture may be found at Aberdeen.

A *straw-hat* manufactory has been for some time carried on. A *Quill*—a *Nail*—and even a *Pin* manufactory, may be enumerated among the different branches conducted at Aberdeen. Three paper-mills have been erected within a few miles of the town, which employ a considerable number of people, and they all make paper of the best quality both for the use of the printer and the counting-house.

*Brick and Tyle Manufactories.*—There are three works of this kind at Aberdeen, and they make about 100,000 tyles, and about 1,500,000 bricks each, yearly.



ly. The work at Clay-hills was the first establishment: that at Brick Kilns, Old Aberdeen, the next;—and lastly, the work at Seatongate, Old Aberdeen.

Various branches of manufacture, besides those enumerated here, are carried on in Aberdeen; but they are all common to the rest of Scotland, and need not therefore be particularly specified.

**COMMERCE.**—As a commercial town, Aberdeen is the second, in point of rank, on the east coast of Scotland. It is particularly well situated for carrying on trade with the northern states of Europe, and it enjoys part of the American and West Indian commerce. Within the limits of the Aberdeen custom-house, there were thirty vessels employed in foreign trade, in the year 1712, in which were exported,

1. Oatmeal, bear, pease, and malt	4132 quarters.
2. Cod, and ling fish	815 barrels.
3. Herrings	228 do.
4. Pork	360 do.
5. Hogslard	10 casks.
6. Stockings, and woollen cloths	158 trusses.
7. Tobacco	17 hogshds.
8. Lead	888 bars.
9. Coals	10 chaldns.

Since the period of the union, the commerce of Aberdeen has greatly increased; and when the harbour improvements are completed, it will no doubt be much augmented. In the year 1788, the number of ships in foreign trade, was 63; tonnage, 4964; men, 319;

319 ; coasting—ships, 93 ; tonnage, 5520 ; men,  
 396 : fisheries—ships, 13 ; tonnage, 1336 ; men,  
 202 :—Total—168 vessels ; 11,720 tons ; 917 men.

In Aberdeen alone, in 1810, there were belonging  
 to merchants and shipowners—150 ships ; tonnage,  
 17,131 ; men, 932.

In 1794, the trade of Aberdeen amounted to  
 L.443,460 sterling, according to the estimate made  
 out for charging the municipal taxes ; but the amount  
 is now more than double that sum : and it is well  
 known, that the calculations for such purposes, are far  
 from being accurate. The extent of the trade of this  
 port may, with more truth, be estimated at about  
 L.1,200,000 annually.

The principal articles of import are,

Wheat, and wheat-flour—quarters, average	4000
Barley do. do. - - - -	3500
Rum—gallons - - - -	18,000
Aquavitæ, or whisky—do. - - -	12,000
Gin, or Geneva—do. - - - -	5000
Brandy—do. - - - -	2000
French wine—do. - - - -	1100
Portuguese, or Spanish do. - - -	42,000
English coals—chaldrons - - -	17,000
Scotch coals—tons - - - -	6000
Wool—cwt. - - - -	5000
Salt—bushels - - - -	24,000
Tobacco and snuff—lbs. above -	200,000
Flax—cwt. - - - -	27,000

Exports,

## Exports.

Oats, or meal, from Buchan and Strath-	
boggie—bolls - - -	18,000
Bear, or bigg—do. - - -	5000
Salmon—barrels - - -	2000
Cod, ling, &c. from Aberdeen -	4000
Do. Peterhead and Buchan coast -	4000
Stockings and woollen, worth -	L.80,000
Cotton, variable, perhaps - -	L.200,000
Linens and threads - - -	L.100,000
Stones, to the amount of - - -	L.40,000

The following table will shew the average amount of ships—their tonnage—and number of men employed in the trade of Aberdeen for five years preceding 1801;—the particular amount of that year—the average from that period, to January 1811—and the amount for last year. These statements are extracted from the custom-house books, and copied by the author from the Survey of Aberdeenshire, by Dr. Skene Keith, whose accuracy is well known, and whose work is altogether a valuable record of every thing important in this district, either in regard to agriculture, manufactures, or commerce.

	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
Average of five years,			
Foreign imports,	74	7,298	443
Coasting do	996	48,779	3999
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Average of imports,	1040	56,077	4442

Foreign

	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
Foreign exports,	44	4,611	296
Coasting do.	752	34,440	2,009
<b>Average exports,</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>30,051</b>	<b>3295</b>
1801 Foreign imports,	109	11,746	678
Coasting do.	1,052	63,961	4,236
<b>Total imports in 1801,</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>75,707</b>	<b>4,914</b>
Foreign exports, do.	62	7,240	424
Coasting do.	741	37,878	3,144
<b>Total exports in 1801,</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>45,118</b>	<b>3,568</b>
<b>From 1802 to 1811 inclusive.</b>			
Average Foreign imports,	69	8,674	559
Coasting do.	888	59,243	4,004
<b>Average of 10 years,</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>67,917</b>	<b>4,563</b>
Foreign exports, do.	58	8,570	547
Coasting do.	738	46,787	3,407
<b>Total exports,</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>55,357</b>	<b>3,954</b>
<b>From 1810 to January 1811.</b>			
Foreign imports,	63	9,017	646
Coasting do.	1,100	78,676	4,851
<b>Total imports of last year,</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>87,693</b>	<b>5,497</b>
			Foreign

	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
Foreign exports do	81	13,424	895
Coasting do.	730	44,798	3,218
<hr/>			
Total exports of last year, 811	58,122	4,113	

Of late years, it has been made a question, whether this country is benefited by its foreign trade: and Mr. Spence has exhausted much ingenuity in endeavouring to shew that Britain is independent of commerce.—The writer of these pages had also some share of the discussion: but although he entirely coincides in opinion with his friend, Mr. Spence, and is fully convinced that the wealth and prosperity of these kingdoms do not depend upon their foreign commerce, yet he would not advise the people of Aberdeen to burn their ships, and become agriculturists, unless they were certain that all the shipowners in Britain would follow their example.

The resources of a great nation are founded on her agriculture and internal industry, and not on her foreign relations, which are liable to every change that may result from accident, or the caprice of invidious and unfriendly powers. To have said only a few years ago, that Britain could have defied the united efforts of all Europe to crush her—and, although deprived of the commerce of the continent—could still maintain her greatness and grandeur, would have been deemed the hallucination of a theorist; yet such a state of things has nearly occurred, and we still exist—

not

not as a second-rate power, but—as a great, an opulent, and independent nation !

Our agricultural system, connected with our fisheries and manufacturing industry, has raised us to a situation that needs not the support of foreign commerce, but is founded on a productive soil, and those internal exertions which can convert the riches within our country into every thing requisite for our comfort and happiness. We have therefore nothing to dread from the hostility of the world ; and although the island of Great Britain should be surrounded with a wall of brass, our strength, opulence and prosperity, would remain undiminished.

*Fisheries.*—One great source of our national wealth arises from our fisheries, which are inexhaustible. This “ sea-girt island ” derives advantages from the ocean, unknown to continental states. It is calculated, that our agriculturists raise subsistence for nearly five times their own number ; in the same proportion, it may be said, the fishermen contribute to the support of the society. With an improved system of cultivation, and the proper direction of our energies to the fishing trade, the population and wealth of this country may be increased beyond our most sanguine expectations. The acute and ingenious Mr. Spence supposes, that our agricultural resources may be made adequate to the maintenance of sixty millions of people ;—our fisheries may be made equally productive ; or, in fact, they may be carried to any extent we please, as the stores of the ocean are boundless, and afford

afford a mine of wealth that is open to unlimited industry.—“ Food,” says Dr. Smith, “ not only constitutes the principal part of the riches of the world, but it is the abundance of food which gives the principal of their value to many other sorts of riches\*.”

The fishing trade of Aberdeen may be arranged in three classes, viz. the *salmon*—the *white-fishing*—and the *whale-fishing*.

The salmon-fishings of Aberdeen on the Dee and Don, have been long celebrated for the abundance and quality of the fish they produced. In 1798, which was a favourable year, the quantity of salmon caught in Dee, was estimated at 1890½ barrels of four cwt. each; and on Don, the same year, at 1667 barrels. In the year 1804, which was extremely unfavourable, Dee produced only 652½; and Don, 349 barrels.

Formerly, the salmon caught in the rivers of Scotland, were salted, packed in barrels, and exported, particularly to the south of Europe, and the states on the shores of the Mediterranean. But Mr. Dempster, of Dunnichen, in the county of Angus, having suggested to Mr. Richardson in Perth, who was extensively engaged in salmon-fishings, the probability that ice would preserve salmon fresh until they should reach the London market, the experiment was tried, and found fully to answer Mr. Dempster's expectations.—Since that time (from 25 to 30 years ago), the value of salmon fishings has risen five-fold.

P

White

\* Wealth of Nations, b. i. chap. i.

*White Fishing* consists in catching haddocks, eod, ling, turbot, hallibut, &c. A new town has been erected by the magistrates of Aberdeen for the accommodation of the fishermen at Footdee. This town is judiciously laid out, and the houses are good and commodious. It is the most useful, though not the most splendid work in which the magistrates have ever been engaged. The city of Aberdeen, however, is supplied with white fish from the neighbouring villages. Findon haddocks are well known, and are esteemed a great delicacy for their delicious taste and flavour. They are cured with the smoke of turf, or peat earth, and brought to the market frequently within twelve hours after they have been taken out of the sea. Many hundred dozens are annually sent to Edinburgh and London, and not a few to America. Findon is a small village in the county of Kincardine, about five miles south of Aberdeen; and certainly the haddocks cured there are superior in flavour and taste to any other, which is attributed to the nature of the turf used in smoking them. Lobsters, crabs, and other shell fish are also brought to the Aberdeen market in considerable quantities; and altogether, this city is as well, or better supplied with the different kinds of fish which the German ocean produces, than perhaps any other town in Britain. Were a small part of the capital of the merchants of Aberdeen applied to the deep-sea fishing, it might become a trade of the greatest value to themselves, and to this part of the country.

*Whale Fishing.*—As oil is an indispensable necessary  
of



of life, whether for the purpose of giving light, or as an ingredient in the manufacture of soap, the whale-fishing is an object of the highest national importance. During the last seven years, the *four* whale ships belonging to Aberdeen, have produced 248 whales; 3396 tons of oil; and 150 tons of fins; which may be estimated at L.140,000 sterling value, or at L.20,000 a-year.

The importance of this species of fishing, both to the individuals concerned, and to the country at large, is so obvious, that it is astonishing the citizens of Aberdeen, who are in general extremely enterprising, should have directed so little of their capital and attention to so profitable a business. It is with pleasure, however, that the author can record, that five or six additional ships are in a state of preparation for the Greenland fishery next year; and he earnestly wishes their success may reward the owners, and stimulate others to extend this lucrative branch of trade.

*Banks and Banking.*—About the middle of last century an attempt was made to establish a bank in Aberdeen, which did not succeed; but on the 1st of January 1767, the present *Aberdeen Bank* commenced under more favourable circumstances. The capital subscribed, amounted to L.72,000 sterling; and among the partners of this company may be included the names of some of the first noblemen and gentlemen in the north of Scotland. A share of the co-partnery stock was fixed at £500; and no one person was allowed to subscribe for more than four shares,

which are declared to be transferable. A governor, and eighteen directors, of whom four are constituted a quorum, were chosen to conduct the affairs of this company, which has greatly prospered.

About twenty-three years ago, the *Commercial Bank* was established by several merchants in Aberdeen, which has also succeeded by good management, to increase its capital; and it may be now considered one of the most substantial establishments of the kind in Scotland. There is also a branch of the *Bank of Scotland* in Aberdeen, which does business to a considerable amount.

The practice of banking is pretty well known in Scotland; but few understand the theory or principles on which it is founded. Banks of deposit always receive value before they pledge their credit, by issuing accompts, checks, or notes, such as the bank of Amsterdam; but in Scotland, banks not only receive money in deposit, for which they allow interest; or, in other words, borrow money, from the richer and more opulent part of the society; but they issue *paper* for *paper*, staking their own credit against that of their customers. For example, if a person shall go into a banking-office with a hundred guineas, he will receive a receipt for the amount bearing interest; or, if in conjunction with another man, he will draw a bill at two or three months date—the one being the acceptor, and the other, the drawer and indorser—he will receive the bank's notes for it, *minus* the interest during the currency of the bill, which he has to pay in full when due. The notes of the bank are payable on demand,  
but

but bear no interest ; hence they produce an advantage to the bank in proportion to the time they may remain in circulation, and this constitutes a great part of the profits of the business. Scotch banks also purchase bills on London at a shorter date than they sell them, which is another source of profit ; and they likewise gain something by the interest on their discounts.

As the whole system of Scotch banking depends upon the degree of confidence which subsists between the bank and its customers, who thus exchange their paper—the one giving notes bearing no interest, and the other's bills bearing interest—the advantage is altogether in favour of the bank, as both parties are equally convinced of the *solidity* of their paper, otherwise their transactions would not take place.

According to the law of Scotland, any man, or set of men, may establish a bank ; and it may be very successful, if he or they shall be able to command a little credit in London. Capital is not at all requisite, at least, any farther than necessary to fit up a room, with a desk and a counter—to procure an engraved plate for casting off notes—and to purchase pens, ink, and paper.—These constitute the whole apparatus of a bank paper manufactory, which may do business to any extent with the assistance of the two emphatic monosyllables, "*The Bank*," painted in legible characters on the door.

It may appear somewhat surprising to those who are unacquainted with the mystery of banking, to say, that the business may be carried on, and may even turn out very profitable, without any real capital invested by

the partners or concerns. But the author knows an instance of a company that embarked in the trade, with only nine thousand pounds of capital, which was lost by mismanagement in the course of two years; but the bank had one hundred thousand pounds borrowed at four per cent. from the country, which was invested in the public funds. On the capital of others, therefore, this bank was enabled to go on, as it could meet every demand that might reasonably be expected, by drafts on its agent in London, who was secured for his engagements by a power to sell stock, if necessary, to retire his acceptances. By better management, this bank now divides about twenty-five per cent. ; but its responsibility at any time could not be doubted, as, by law, the whole fortunes of the partners of unchartered banks are, individually, liable for the engagements of the company.

That banks occasionally sustain some losses by bankruptcies, is apparent; but the calculation of loss on bills accepted, drawn, and indorsed, is about one to three hundred thousand; and, consequently, so very insignificant, that deficiencies of payments cannot materially affect the business, if managed with common prudence. But as the art of the banker, or person who takes the active department, consists in prying into the affairs of his customers, he generally learns as much through the envy and malevolence of his neighbours, as enables him to guard against losses. A naturally inquisitive temper, sharpened by constant practice, and a dull plodding genius, are invaluable qualifications for a country banker, especially if he can  
assume

assume a haughty supercilious air, and impress the public with the opinion that he possesses shrewdness and discernment\*.

*Canal.*

\* Douglas, in his Description of the East Coast (p. 141.), mentions, that after the establishment of a branch of the Thistle Bank at Aberdeen, "an uncommon scarcity of specie was universally felt and complained of: one might have travelled half a day before he could have silver for a twenty shillings note. Matters came to that pass, that poor people were obliged to *pay a premium, or spend money*, to procure change to purchase necessities for their families." The abundance of notes at that time, induced by granting cash accounts, and discounting bills, entirely supplied the place of the coin, and it accordingly disappeared. The same effect must invariably follow the same cause; and in London, of late, similar circumstances have occurred, the over-issues of the Bank of England having rendered its paper so abundant, that, like every other commodity similarly situated, it has fallen in value, or, in other words, a guinea in gold is commensurate to about 26 shillings in paper.

Although the precious metals are not more a standard of value than paper, being only, when in the state of coin, a representative of value; yet the scarcity of the one, or what is the same thing, the abundance of the other, must destroy their exact balance, and render their separation unavoidable. While bank notes are convertible into specie for the exact amount they bear on the face of them, their value as a circulating medium, in relation to commodities, is equal to that of gold; but when they represent nothing except an ideal property supposed to exist in the bank, or, in other words, the bonds, bills, and debts owing to the bank, either by individuals or by the public, a difference of value must arise between such notes, and gold, which is an universal representative of value. Bank of England notes at present, are in the same situation as 3 per cent. stock, and will fluctuate in price from the same causes which influence the public funds. It is evident

*Canal.*—This useful work extends from the harbour of Aberdeen to the borough of Inverury, including the space of  $18\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Its summit level at Stoneywood,

is

evident that at present, 100 guineas in specie, possess more command over the necessaries of life than 105 one pound bank notes: hence it is undeniable, that either the gold has risen, or the notes have fallen in price. That the notes are depreciated, is pretty certain, because the price of gold has not advanced in other nations: at the same time, the rate of exchange between this country and foreign states, has risen in proportion to the difference between the price of gold, and bank notes.

The fact is apparent: but it is of much less importance to the people of Britain than they generally imagine. Certain classes of society must no doubt suffer a material injury from the depreciation of bank paper. All those who have property in the funds—all annuitants, and those who have lent money on interest, are greatly injured, as the notes they receive, have lost about 25 per cent. of their former power over the necessaries of life, and their incomes are accordingly diminished in that ratio. But to the nation at large, it is of little consequence what may be the depreciation of bank paper, as the value of *labour*, and hence of every commodity, must rise in proportion to its relative diminution. Neither gold nor paper, under any shape, can form a *standard of value*. They are merely representatives, and perform the same duty in the operations of society, as counters do in a game of cards. They serve as a medium to represent value; and it is a matter of indifference whether a guinea shall stand as an equivalent for 21 days labour, or only for  $10\frac{1}{2}$  days. It will possess the same power over the products of industry, in the one case, as in the other; as not only coin, but every other commodity, must be appreciated according to the *labour* it requires to obtain it.

If the reader wishes to have farther information relative to banks and banking, he may consult the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, article "BANK," which was drawn up by the author.

is 168 feet above the low-water mark in the harbour of Aberdeen. The principal works constructed upon the canal are, 17 locks; five aqueduct bridges over considerable streams of water; 56 accommodation bridges; 20 culverts for conveying smaller streams from the higher grounds under the canal; besides basons at Port Elphinston, at the top of the canal, at bridge of Dyce, and Kintore; and a temporary bason at Aberdeen, with other pieces of masonry of less importance.

This canal was opened in 1807, and the tonnage conveyed during the last three years, is as follows:

	<i>bolls of lime.</i>	<i>bolls of coals.</i>	<i>tons of dung.</i>	<i>other articles.</i> <i>tons.</i>
1808	19,423	4335	468	6144
1809	25,673	5521	528	2526
1810	25,525	6192	736	1950
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	70,621	16,048	1732	9620

The value of this work, both to the subscribers and the country is daily increasing: and the fly-boats for 1808, produced £105; for 1809, L.186; for 1810, L.231; and for the present year, they are let at L.348 sterling.

The expence of erecting the canal previously to the 1st of December, 1808, amounted to L.43,895 18s. 10d. sterling, as appears by the following statement.

For surveys, plans, and acts of parliament	-	-	-	L.2154	10	4
Law expences	-	-	-	251	10	0
				<hr/>		
Carried forward,				L.2406	0	4
						Brought

	Brought forward,	L.2406	0	4
Lands, and land-rents, and damages to grounds	- - -	2134	3	8
The execution of the earthen part of the canal, including boats and utensils	- - -	19,917	0	1
Constructing 17 locks, five aqueduct, and 56 accommodation bridges, 20 culverts, and other works of masonry, including superintendence, management, and incidental expences	- - -	19,438	14	9
<hr/>				
December 31, 1808.—Total expenditure at this date	-	L.43,895	18	10

The money raised for this erection has been produced by the sale of shares, exclusive of L.17,259 8s. 10d. sterling, still owing to individuals, as may be seen by the following statement.

By the first act of parliament in 1796, the company were authorised to raise among themselves, in shares of L.50 each, the sum of L.20,000. But of this sum there could only be raised by the partners, to the amount of L.17,750

Less, by one partner deficient in calls

-	35	—	17,715	0	0
Carried forward,	L.	17,715	0	0	
				Brought	



Brought forward, L.17,715, 0 0

This money being expended on the works of the canal, the company obtained another act in 1801, authorising them to raise, by sale of new shares of L.20 each (preferable to shares under the first act), a further sum of L.20,000. But as the act was worded, they could only get sold at a public roup 1000 new shares, which produced in cumulo

- - - 11,421 10 0

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L.29,136 10 0

This sum has been super-expended under the direction of the committee, and has been contributed by, and still remains due to individuals L.14,759 8 10

Besides progressive interest on the

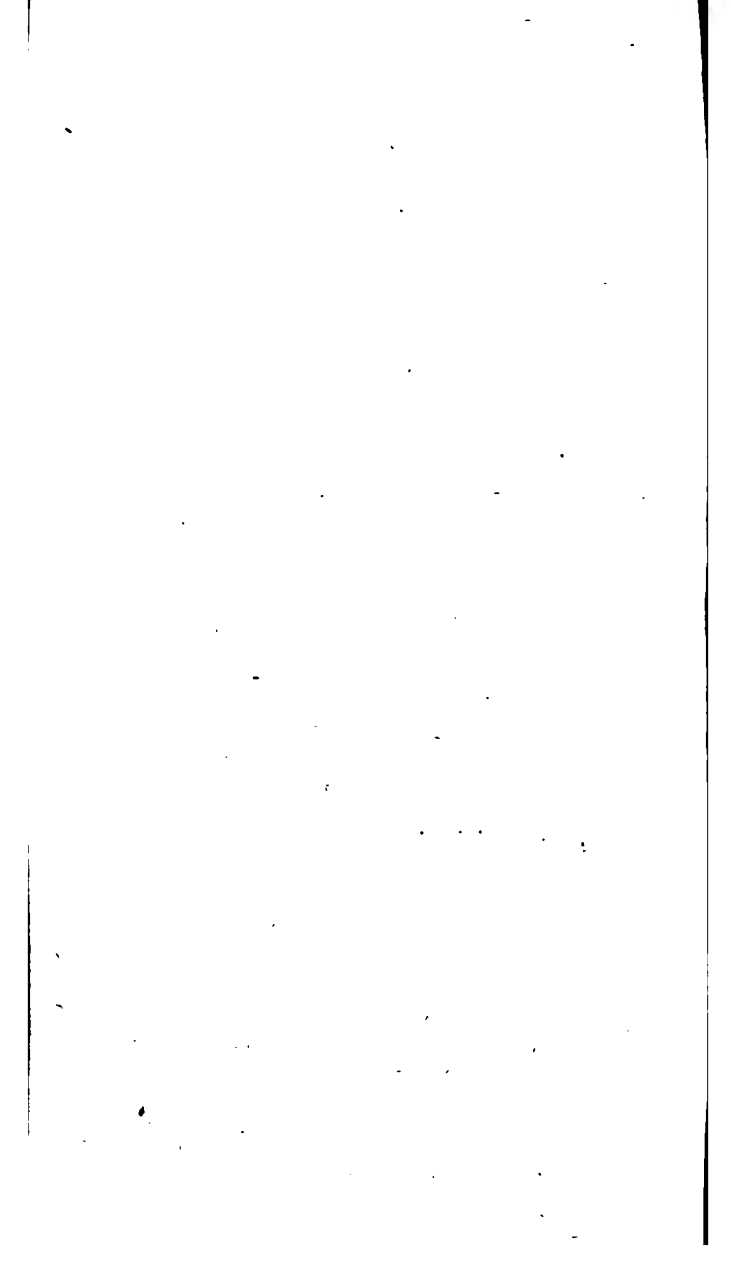
advances, equal to - - - 2500 0 0

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L.17,259 8 10

The canal was originally only 17 feet wide, by three feet deep; but by subsequent operations, it has been made from 21 to 23 feet wide, and about three feet ten inches deep.

A chairman, and fourteen gentlemen of the town and county, are a committee of management: and there is no doubt, but ultimately this work will prove advantageous to the proprietors, as well as highly beneficial to the country.



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## CHAPTER VII.

### LITERATURE AND THE ARTS.

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**I**N literature and the arts, Aberdeen has not been without a portion of its natives who have done honour to the place of their birth.

Of the men of learning and genius who have studied or taught in either King's or Marischal College, were we to give but even abbreviated notices, it would occupy a space far beyond the limits which must be unavoidably assigned to such a department in a work of this description. In times comparatively modern, many have been sent from these seminaries, in various capacities, to different quarters of the globe, whose genius and intelligence, in every branch of science, would do honour to any age or country. Merely to name a Blackwell and a Campbell, who occupied, in succession, the Principal's chair in Marischal College, the late Principal John Chalmers, Dr. Reid, the venerable and learned Professor Thomas Gordon, his grandson, Professor Scott, Dr. Dunbar, and Mr. John Leslie, Greek professor, all of King's College, and to add to these that of Duncan, Fordyce, and Gerard,

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Gerard, with those of Skene, senior and junior, as well as the elder and younger Beatties,—were only to call to the recollection of those who knew the men, and have read such of their works as have been published, the talents they possessed, and those energies of character by which each was peculiarly distinguished. About 50 years since, most of these gentlemen were members of a literary and philosophical society, who held regular meetings, in which subjects in the various departments of science were critically discussed.

Of the gentlemen who at present so worthily fill the different offices, as professors in either college, it is more the province of the historian of an after-period to record that merit which, in them, is so justly acknowledged. We cannot, however, avoid retracing our steps, by going a little back to record some particulars of that family, to whom was allotted no slender portion of that genius and ardour for the improvement of science, which distinguish the name of GREGORY. With them genius, and a love of science, appears to have been a species of entailed inheritance.

*James Gregory*, a celebrated mathematician, was born in Aberdeen, in 1638. He discovered an early genius for mathematics, which he cultivated with ardour in the Marischal College. In his "*Optica Promota*," &c. which he published in quarto, in 1663, he announced the invention of the reflecting telescope, which spread his fame all over Europe. He soon after visited Italy, and resided some years at Padua, where he published his "*Vera circuli, et Hyperbolæ Quadratura*," &c., in which appeared an account of a  
discovery

discovery of an infinitely converging series for the areas of the circle and hyperbola, and the mode of computing them. He was, after his return to England, chosen a fellow of the Royal Society, and engaged with Huygens in a controversy on the subject of his treatise on the quadrature of the circle. In 1668, he was chosen professor of mathematics in the university of St. Andrew's.

He had an amicable controversy with Newton concerning the reflecting telescope, in which he threw out the idea of a burning concave mirror, which came into universal repute. In 1674, he became professor of mathematics at Edinburgh, where he died in the year following.—His treatise on Optics was translated into English by Dr. Disagulier; and several of his papers are in the Philosophical Transactions.

*David Gregory*, nephew to the mathematician, was born in Aberdeen, in 1661, and also eminently distinguished for his genius, and profound studies in mathematics. He completed his education at Edinburgh, where his merit recommended him to fill the mathematical chair in that university. By the recommendation of Newton, he was chosen a member of the Royal Society, and elected Savilian professor of astronomy at Oxford. He published several works of high reputation on mathematics, and subjects connected with that science, and, in 1703, a splendid edition of Euclid's works in folio. Dr. Gregory died in 1716. His brother, James, became professor of mathematics at Edinburgh, which situation he held 33 years. His other brother, Charles, was professor of mathematics at St.

Andrew's 32 years, and was succeeded by his son David, who published a system of arithmetic and algebra in Latin. He died in 1763.

Dr. John Gregory, physician, was born in 1724, at Aberdeen, where his father, Dr. James Gregory, was professor of medicine in King's College. He studied at Aberdeen, and afterwards at Edinburgh and Leyden. In 1745, he obtained the degree of M. D., and became professor of philosophy at Aberdeen, which he afterwards exchanged in 1749, for that of physic. About 1751, he left Aberdeen, and settled in London, where he was chosen a fellow of the Royal Society. He practised subsequently at Aberdeen, and was afterwards chosen professor of medicine in the university of Edinburgh, in 1766, where he died in 1773. His works are, the Duties and Offices of a Physician—Elements of the Practice of Physic—and a Father's Legacy to his Daughters.

His family were all born in Aberdeen; and his son, Dr. James Gregory, an eminent physician and professor in the university of Edinburgh, now living, is, in his character and works, well known to the learned world.

In any observations which might occur on the subject of the Arts, it were unpardonable to pass over the name of GIBBS, from whose plan the West Church of this city was built, by Mr. Wyllie, an architect from Edinburgh, and finished about the year 1755 or 56. The dressing of granite at that period, was not brought to that facility in working, and dexterity in finish, which

which it has attained within the last twenty years ; and to this it may have been owing, that the basement course only of this elegant church has been built of this beautiful stone, so much and so justly admired, and not liable to decay from the influence of weather. The superstructure is of free-stone, brought in blocks from the firth of Forth, at a considerable expence, although we had quarries of a very superior stone, in a manner just at our door. The effect of a building of granite over that of free-stone, may be seen in a house in Broad-street, built about the year 1748, for Mr. Cruickshank, a respectable Russian merchant, and a native of Aberdeen. The front towardâ Broad-street, after a very elegant design, was erected of free-stone, on which were worked appropriate mouldings, with a handsome cornice and balustrade. The front to Guestrow is of dressed granite. In the course of 50 years, the free-stone front, by the influence of the weather, was, in the balustrade, and all the projecting mouldings, reduced to a hideous skeleton, so that it became necessary that all the projections should be chiseled off—the balustrade taken down, and replaced with a railing of cast-iron—the whole front of the shop-floor repaired with granite—and the upper part painted, to prevent farther injury from the weather. All this was done at a considerable expence, but to the utter destruction of the original beautiful design and finish, while the granite front to Guestrow, remains in all its primitive beauty and simple elegance.

James Gibbs, architect, was born in Aberdeen, in

1638, and studied his art in Italy. His father was a catholic, and was proprietor of Footclay-myre, where he had a house which was long known by the name of the *White House in the Links*, and afterwards used as a mason-lodge, previous to the building of the New Inn, by the mason society.

The new presbyterians of Mr. Gibbs' time, used to spur on the idle boys of the town to annoy the old gentlemen in his premises. He was, it seems, a man of a considerable portion of humour; and having provided two dogs to keep the rabble who occasionally disturbed him at a distance, it is said, he good-naturedly took his revenge, by inscribing on the collar of one, *Leather*, and on the other, *Calvin*. Mr. Gibbs acquired so much reputation as an architect in London, about the year 1720, that he was very generally employed. In 1721, he gave the design for St. Martin's church in the Fields, which was finished in five years, and cost thirty thousand pounds. He was the architect also of St. Mary's in the Strand; of the new church at Derby; the new building at King's College, Cambridge, as well as the senate-house there. He also gave the design for, and built the famous Ratchliffe Library at Oxford, at the opening of which he was complimented by the university with the degree of Master of Arts. He was employed in many other public and private buildings.—Horace Walpole, Lord Orford, in his life of Gibbs, has been rather fastidiously critical on the subject of the architect's taste.—“His praise,” says his lordship, “was fidelity to rules; his failing—want of grace:” but the best proof of his genius and taste are to be found



found in his numerous works, which were much commended by many who were esteemed very competent judges.

After having acquired reputation and wealth, he died in 1754, leaving his books, drawings, and prints, to the Ratcliffe Library; besides legacies to his friends, and to public charities.

The Cross, in Castle-street, although no part of it bears any resemblance to that emblem of our religion, is a very beautiful and singular production in stonemasonry. All its parts, cut in high relief, are finished in a superior style; and the portraits of the ten sovereigns from James I. to James VII. bear a strong resemblance to the best pictures we have seen of these personages. The decorated pillar, with a Corinthian capital, which supports the unicorn in the centre, is remarkable for its elegance of design and execution. The date of its erection (supposed about 130 years since), is not exactly ascertained. It is said to have been erected by a stonemason in Old Rayne, or Huntly; and, whoever he was, does him infinite honour as a man of taste, and liberal instruction.—What is said of the inutility of this building in another part of this volume, related chiefly to its present situation, rendered inappropriate from the late improvements, and opening of new streets.

Of the architectural taste of the private buildings in Aberdeen, little is to be said in commendation. We seem, however, to be of late emerging from that chaos of distinguishable bad taste which predominated for the last thirty years, and which was subject to,  
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and recognized by no rule of architecture. The unnecessary high-pitched roof, and that preposterous deformity, a tympany, while it broke into the roof, and created a great expence, procured only a miserable chamber of a few feet square. These, and other absurdities, seem to be giving way to more fixed rules, governed by correct principles and good taste. It is the interest of every man who builds a house, whatever its expence or size may be, to obtain previously a good design from one who has studied architecture as a science. A good plan may cost a few pounds; but it may save many, besides the advantages gained by judicious contrivance, founded on the principles of reasonable economy.

ABERDEEN has not only to boast of Gibbs as a distinguished architect, but has a title to be eminently proud of her JAMESON, appropriately called the *Apelles of Scotland*, the pupil of Rubens, and fellow student with Vandyck, at Antwerp, under that great master.

George Jameson was the son of Andrew Jameson, and was born in Aberdeen in 1586. At what age he went abroad, or how long he continued there, is not known. After his return, he applied with indefatigable industry to portrait in oil, though he sometimes practised in miniature, and also in history and landscape. His largest portraits were generally somewhat less than life.

His excellence is said to consist in delicacy and softness, with a clear and beautiful colouring.—When king Charles visited Scotland in 1633, the magistrates  
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of Edinburgh, knowing his majesty's taste, employed Jameson to make drawings of the Scottish monarchs; with which the king was so much pleased, that, enquiring for the painter, he sat to him, and rewarded him with a diamond ring from his own finger. It is observable, that Jameson always drew himself with his hat on, either in imitation of his master Rubens, or in having been indulged in that liberty by the king when he sat to him.

About the year 1620, Jameson returned to his native city, where he settled in the line of his profession. Here he married a lady of the name of *Isabella Toash*, by whom he had several sons and daughters. All his sons, it appears, died in early life. His only daughter, whose numerous descendants are now living, was *Mary*, who was thrice married: first, to Mr. Burnett, of Elrick, in the county of Aberdeen; afterwards, to James Gregory, the celebrated mathematician; and subsequently, to Mr. George Eddie, one of the magistrates of Aberdeen. By all these gentlemen she had children. Many of the descendants of the two first have numerous families in this county.

Mary seems to have inherited a portion of her father's genius. Several specimens of her needle-work remain, particularly Jephtha's rash vow: Susannah and the elders, &c. probably form a design of her father's; and in different copartments, which adorn the east end of St. Nicolas' Church, in this city, above the magistrates' gallery.—A list of Mr. Jameson's paintings, as far as collected, is annexed.

Though most of the considerable families in Scotland,

land are possessed of works by this master, the greatest collection of them is at Taymouth, the seat of the earl of Breadalbane:—Sir John Campbell, of Glenorchy, his lordship's ancestor, having been the chief and earliest patron of Jameson, who had attended that gentleman in his travels. In different gentlemen's houses in the county of Aberdeen, there are portraits painted by Jameson, as well as in the halls of Marischal and King's College: but the Sybils, said to be painted from Beauties of Old Aberdeen, do not justify the opinion that they were the productions of his pencil; although the Four Evangelists, which are also in the hall of King's College, bear strong marks of the manner of this excellent artist.

He died possessed of an easy fortune, which he left to his three daughters, two of whom were honourably married.—Mr. Thomson, of Portlethen, a descendant of Mary, above mentioned, had an original picture of her father, by himself. Mr. Thomson was grand-uncle to Mr. Carnegie, town-clerk of this city, in whose possession this picture now is.

Mr. Pennant, in his *Tour through Scotland*, 1772, says (but we know not on what authority), that Jameson having finished a whole length of Charles I. he expected the magistrates of Aberdeen would purchase it for their hall; but they offering him too inconsiderable a price, he sold it to a gentleman in the north of England.

Jameson had many scholars, particularly Michael Wright, a portrait-painter of considerable merit, and mentioned by Lord Orford as having gone from Scotland

land to London, where he was much employed by the nobility and gentry.

Though Jameson was little known in England, and, what is still more extraordinary, is not mentioned either in Pilkington's Biographical Dictionary of the Painters, or in the last edition of that work published by Fuseli—his character, as well as his works, were greatly esteemed in his own country. Arthur Johnston, the poet, addressed to him an elegant Latin epigram on the picture of the marchioness of Huntly, which may be seen in the works of that author, printed at Middleburgh in 1642. The picture itself is in the collection of the duke of Gordon; and in the hall of the Marischal College is the portrait of Arthur Johnston, also by Jameson. He died in Edinburgh in 1644, and was interred in the church-yard of the Greyfriars, but without any monument.

Mr. John Alexander, the grand-nephew of Mr. Jameson, seems to have been the only one of his descendants who possessed his genius for painting. He practised as a portrait-painter till a considerable time after the year 1730. Many of his paintings also are highly esteemed.

By his will, written with his own hand in July 1641, and breathing a spirit of much piety and benevolence, he provides kindly for his wife and children, and leaves many legacies to his relations and friends, particularly Lord Rothes, the king's picture a full length; and Mary with Martha in one piece. To William Murray he gives the medals in his coffer; makes a hand-  
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some provision for his natural daughter; and bestows liberally on the poor.

Mr. *Francis Peacock* was for the space of sixty years, the much respected teacher of dancing in Aberdeen. He had always a strong predilection for drawing, but never took a pencil in his hand to attempt any thing in colour, till he was about 40 years of age. He received his instructions in London, and particularly from Francis Cotes, who was esteemed a good artist, and died about the year 1770. Mr. Peacock copied with great delicacy and truth, and thereby greatly promoted his improvement in taking likenesses in miniature, which he painted at moderate prices. To a genius for music and painting, he united the unaffected manners of a gentleman. No man possessed a more nice sense of honour.

He assisted in the first formation of the weekly subscription concerts, and with great ability joined the band in the Orchestra, both on the violin and violoncello. Late in life he published a treatise on dancing, well written, and as well received by the public and the teachers of that part of genteel education.

Mr. Peacock died at the advanced age of eighty odds, leaving, ultimately, the residue of his fortune to purposes of public charity.

*James Wales* was a native of Banffshire, but settled in Aberdeen about thirty years since. He had been in a great manner self-taught, prompted by the ardour of genius to the practice of the art.

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He was much patronized in Aberdeen by Mr. Francis Peacock, whose love of the art led him to encourage that in others, to which he felt in himself a constant stimulus. Mr. Wales's portrait of Mr. Peacock, being a strong likeness, and well painted, procured him a considerable share of business, chiefly in portraits of a small size, which he painted in oval on tin-plate, so low as half a-guinea and a guinea each. This afforded him but little advantage, and, of course, from such trivial resources, incumbered with small debts which he had not always the means of discharging, he left Aberdeen, and went to London, where he greatly improved, having a great portion of ready conception and aptitude, in availing himself of whatever he saw superior in the works of others, rendering it peculiarly his own, without the apparent labour of a mannerist. At London, he painted landscapes in the manner of Poussin, with fine effect, and attained great eminence in portrait.

He was, however, still left in circumstances considerably incumbered; and was encouraged to try for better fortune, and patronage arising from professional merit, in India. This he probably would have obtained, had he lived; for his improvement was rapid: what he painted there was much approved of by the best judges of the art in that country. He died (in what part of India we know not), about ten years since.

In an article connected with the arts, we should not be able to offer any reasonable apology to the public, if we omitted the name of Mr. *Byres*, of Tonley, a na-

tive of Aberdeenshire, who, after about 40 years residence in Rome, retired to live on his estate in this county. In very early life, Mr. Byres studied at Rome. His classical taste and profound knowledge of whatever related to architecture, statuary, or painting, established his fame as a connoisseur, to whose judgment all the British resorting to Rome, as well as the learned and curious of other nations, were invariably in the habit of making constant appeal. As the intimate friend of Sir William Hamilton, the famous Portland vase, and indeed, the finest specimens of the art, sent by that intelligent gentleman into this country, came originally through the hands of Mr. Byres. In forming an opinion of the productions of the old masters, and appreciating their just value and distinctive excellence, the judgment of Mr. Byres, since his return to Britain, has been often resorted to, and his decisions acquiesced in with well-founded confidence. Of specimens in the arts in his own possession, we are ignorant; but whatever he has, *must be select*:—and, to a remarkable suavity of manners, he unites all the amiable qualities of a benevolent and worthy man.

In the course of these observations, we are naturally led to a notice of Mr. *John Moir*, a living artist, and nephew to Mr. Byres. Mr. Moir is the son of a clergyman (Dr. Moir, of Peterhead), and received part of his education in Aberdeen, where, at an early period, he was taught the rudiments of drawing. He went soon afterwards to Italy, where he studied at Rome with every advantage which could be obtained in that emporium of the arts, forming his judgment and taste



on the best models of antiquity, and the works of the great masters of former times. On his return to Britain, he confined himself chiefly to landscape, studying nature with a sedulous and unremitting attention. This he did not in vain; but of late he has practised much as a portrait-painter, in which he has succeeded to a considerable degree of excellence. His portraits, in full length, of Captain Barclay, Mr. Niven Lumsden, and his head-size of Captain Adam Cumine, in the last Edinburgh exhibition, were, among others, justly remarked as fine specimens of this branch of the art, conveying, not merely strong likenesses, but a considerable trait of general manner and character. Mr. Moir has fixed his principal residence in Edinburgh, but usually spends several months annually in Aberdeen, where he has met with that encouragement to which his merit obviously entitles him. His copy of Dr. Dun, who left the munificent endowment for the grammar-school, from Jameson, in the town-hall of this city, is the finest fac-simile we have seen. It has all the force of expression and fine painting of Jameson's picture.

Messrs *Archibald, Alexander, and Andrew Robertson*, are all natives of Aberdeen, and the sons of Mr. William Robertson of Marischal Street. They all, at an early period, received the rudiments of the art of drawing, from teachers in this city; and, as kindred in genius, as well as in blood, they assisted greatly in the instruction of each other. Mr. Archibald, after studying in London for some time, went to New York;

and Mr. Alexander, after a similar course of study, followed his elder brother. They have met with such encouragement in that city, both in teaching and in painting portrait and landscape, as they had reason to expect from their several endowments and practice in the art. Mr. Andrew, the younger brother, after the tuition he had received at home, studied under Mr. Nasmyth at Edinburgh, and subsequently in London, where his progress in the different branches of the art was marked with much approbation by artists of the highest reputation, and particularly Mr. West, the president of the Royal Academy, whose picture he painted in large miniature, and from which a print, by Dawe, was taken in mezzotinto, which has much of the spirit and effect of the original picture.—Mr. Robertson's picture of the marquis of Huntly, from which an excellent print has been taken by Holl, has been much admired for its likeness and fine painting. This print has been also much approved of, and is in the possession of all Lord Huntly's friends.

The just celebrity which Mr. Robertson has obtained by his numerous works, is well known to the best judges of the art in the metropolis. With what reputation he painted the volunteer colonels of London, need not be told. Prints were taken from all these fine miniatures. In his exquisite miniatures of the royal family, and his large miniature of a beautiful Gipsy and her infant, in the character of a Madona and child, so much admired in the last exhibition at Somerset-house, he has shewn to what excellence an artist may arrive, who unites, with original  
genius,

genius, the closest application, and the most unremitting industry.

Mr. Robertson resides now constantly in London, devoted to the art he loves, at 33, Gerard-street, Soho.

We claim among the number of living artists and connoisseurs, as connected with Aberdeen, Mr. *James Irvine*, brother to Mr. Irvine of Drum. It is impossible not to perceive, that in some families, genius, and a taste for the arts, are hereditary qualities. Mr. Irvine spent the years of early life in Aberdeen, and was educated at Marischal College. After preliminary studies in this city, he went to London, and from thence to Rome. There he was gratified with a sight of whatever was excellent in a profession to which he had given many early proofs of a strong predilection. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the productions of his pencil, to give any particular account of them; but several of his portraits and designs are in this neighbourhood.

For some years past, his attention has been chiefly directed to the selection and purchase of pictures for sale: several fine specimens of which he has sent to London. He sold the two famous landscapes of Claude Lorraine—the temple of Apollo, and the landing of Æneas in Italy, from the Altieri palace at Rome, which Mr. Beckford, of Fonthill, purchased at 7000 guineas.

This species of commerce, for which he is so eminently qualified, engrosses at present, we believe, the greater part of his time and attention.

In like manner, and for the same reasons, we have a right to claim an interest in Mr. *Hugh Irvine*, son to Mr. Irvine of Drum, and nephew to Mr. James Irvine, the subject of the last article. This young gentleman, at an early period of life, manifested a strong inclination for the study of the art, and for several years his application has been unremitting. For some time he was the pupil of Mr. Renaigle of London, whose merit as an artist is well known; and he has long been a close student in landscape after Nature. In the Edinburgh exhibition his picture from Walter Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel," of Sir William of Deloraine crossing the Tweed in moon-light, on his approach to Melross Abbey, with appropriate scenery. was much noticed by connoisseurs. Mr. Irvine has lately painted views of several of the seats of the nobility and gentry of this county, and recently, a very beautiful view of Monymusk, the seat of Sir Archibald Grant, with the river Don in the fore-ground of the picture — *Benachae*, and other interesting objects in the distance. Some of these pictures have been engraved, and appear in the Rev. Dr. Skene Keith's Agricultural Report of Aberdeenshire. Indeed, from his genius and industry, this young artist affords reasonable ground to hope that he will obtain a distinguished rank in the line of his profession.

In a strict connection with the arts, the musical taste of a town, and its musical establishments, form, perhaps, a distinguishable feature, and, of course, merit notice.

At a time considerably remote, the records of the community mention "a salary to the master of the " song school;" and this stipend is, in substance, continued, we believe, to the present day.

Aberdeen, however, for a period of 60 years, at least, could boast of a regular weekly subscription concert, through the winter. It was liberally supported by the nobility and gentry of the county, who, with the principal citizens, raised annually an ample sum for this establishment, which was conducted in a manner highly honourable to the taste of the town.

These concerts were managed by a president and directors chosen annually by the subscribers. They had occasionally as leaders on the violin, Oliveri, the elder Pinto, Thrustans, and others, to whom liberal salaries were paid. To these were joined a very powerful band of gentlemen of the town, who were aided by hired assistants, on different instruments, with, occasionally, a male or female singer, and these combined, formed a very respectable Orchestra. That Orchestra could not fail to be in considerable repute, in which the late Dr. John Gregory; Mr. George Skene, of Rubislaw; Mr. George Moir, of Scotstown; Dr. George Skene; Mr. George Walker; Colonel Knight Erskine; Mr. Fysher Smith Lyttleton; Mr. A. Tait; Mr. Robertson, of Foveran; Dr. Beattie; Mr. A. Annand; Mr. Davis; Mr. Barber; Mr. Ross; Sir William Forbes; Dr. Dauney; Mr. John and Mr. James Boyn; Mr. Peacock; the Rev. Mr. A. Smith; Mr. Thomson, of Banchory; and Mr. Andrew Robert-

son, along with other names too tedious to enumerate, performed on different instruments their several parts.—Mr. A. Tait, Mr. Boyn, Dr. Dauney, and Mr. Ewen, were treasurers of *The Musical Society* in succession.

It is a subject of sincere regret, that, owing to the death of many of these gentlemen-performers, who rendered their services gratuitously, and the departure of others to distant parts, whose place it has not hitherto been possible to supply, this elegant entertainment has been for some years past given up.

We are, moreover, not without our apprehensions that the fashionable late hours of more modern times, may have had some influence on the discontinuance of these musical meetings, which afforded so much pleasure to many who are not now living, as well as to a considerable number who remain to regret that no such delightful and innocent source of amusement does honour, at present, to the town of Aberdeen. Let us, however, indulge a hope that circumstances may yet occur, favourable to its revival.

A very fine collection of music, an excellent organ, by Snetzler, a harpsichord, and; in short, a very complete set of instruments, the property of the Musical Society, are lodged in the library of Marischal College, to wait the re-establishment of subscription-concerts, on their former very respectable footing. A very good picture, supposed to be by one of the old Italian masters, the subject, St. Cecilia at the organ, accompanied by angels, was presented to the Musical Society by Mr. Alexander, the painter, a descendant

ant of George Jameson. It formerly hung over the folding-door in the hall of the society, where the weekly concerts were held, in Broad-street, and is now, with the other property of the society, kept in reserve, under the more immediate care of the librarian, in Marischal College. A golden lyre, ornamented with diamonds and rubies, presented to the society by the late Sir Archibald Grant, of Monymusk, to be worn by the president at all public meetings, is, at present, in the keeping of Mr. Ewen, the last treasurer. All the articles of property belonging to the society, are inventoried and recorded, so as to be forthcoming in due season.

As to the means of instruction in music, Mr. Ross, organist of St. Paul's chapel, has long taught the harpsichord and piano-forte with great approbation, and is well known to the musical world, as a composer of distinguished merit.—We cannot avoid, on this occasion, congratulating the public on the recent acquisition made in aid of this elegant branch of education; by the establishment of Mr. Knott, as a professional teacher of *Vocal Music* in this city. He possesses a powerful and melodious voice, which, joined to a considerable portion of musical science, peculiarly qualify him for that situation to which he has been called by the choice of the magistrates and council, and the approbation of the public. His excellent method of teaching, and unremitting application, while they prove highly beneficial to his pupils, do very great credit to himself.

CATALOGUE of some of the works of **GEORGE JAMESON, Painter.**

**JAMESON, his wife, and son.**—In the possession of Sir George Chalmers, painter, married to Jameson's great-great-grand-daughter.

Jameson in his painting-room, which is adorned with pictures of Charles I. and his queen; Jameson's own wife; another head; two sea-views; Perseus and Andromeda.—In the possession of the earl of Findlater, at Banff Castle.

Jameson, a single figure, with a miniature in his hand, supposed his wife's picture—In the possession of William Carnegie, Esq. town-clerk of Aberdeen, Jameson's great-great-grandson.

Sir Duncan Campbell; William, earl of Airth; John, duke of Rothes; James, marquis of Hamilton; Archibald Lord Napier; William, earl Marischal; Earl of Loudon, lord high chancellor; Thomas Lord Binning; John, earl of Mar; Sir Robert Campbell; Sir John Campbell; Genealogical picture of twenty heads of the family of Lochow:—In possession of the earl of Breadalbane.

Two of the family of Argyle.—In possession of the duke of Argyle.

Lord Glamis.—In possession of the earl of Strathmore.

George Herriot, jeweller.—In Herriot's Hospital.

Sir Alexander Erskine, Cambuskenneth<sup>6</sup>; Sir Charles Erskine, of Alva; Sir John Erskine, of Otterstown; Arthur Erskine, Scotsraig; William Erskine, master  
of



of Charterhouse; Mary Erskine, countess of Marischal and of Panmure; Margaret, countess of Rothes; Martha, countess of Strathmore; Anne Lady Binning; Henry, prince of Wales; Henry Erskine, lord of Dryburgh.—In the possession of Lord Alva.

Sir Alexander Gibson, lord of session, collector of decisions.—In the possession of Murray of Polmaise, and countess of Rothes.

James Erskine, earl of Buchan; Henry Erskine, lord of Dryburgh; Alexander Erskine, son of Mar, full length.—In possession of the earl of Buchan.

Alexander Fraser, of Philorth; William Forbes, of Tolquhon.—In the possession of Lord Salton.

Sir Thomas Hope, lord advocate; Sir John Hope, lord of session; Margaret Murray, his wife.—In possession of Mr. Scott, late of Rossie.

Sir Adam Gordon.—In the possession of Sir Ernest Gordon, Park.

Dr. Dun, founder of the grammar-school, Aberdeen.—In the possession of Bisset, Lessendrum.

Crichton, Viscount Frendraught; Sutherland, Lady Frendraught; Marquis of Montrose; Urquhart of Cromarty; His wife; Lesly, Lady Frendraught.—In possession of Morrison of Bognie.

Charles I.; Jameson himself.—In possession of Mr. Jameson, wine-merchant, Leith.

Three young girls of the Haddington family.—In the possession of Sir John Dalrymple.

Three girls, aged six, seven, and eight, of the families of Argyle, Errol, and Kinnoul.—In the possession of Baird of Auchmedden.

Two boys, aged three and five, and a dog.—In the possession of Lindsay of Wormistown.

Marchioness of Huntly; Marchioness of Gordon.—In the possession of the duke of Gordon.

Sir Thomas Hope, lord-advocate.—In the possession of the earl of Hopetoun.

Dr. William Johnston, brother of Dr. Arthur; Forbes, his wife.—In the possession of Andrew Skene, Esq. of Dyce.

Dr. Arthur Johnston; Mr. Andrew Cant, minister; Gordon of Straloch, publisher of maps; Sir Paul Menzies, provost of Aberdeen; a Head unknown.—In Marischal College.

Patrick Forbes, bishop of Aberdeen; Professor Sandilands; Professor Gordon; The Sybils, some of them supposed to be of Jameson's hand.—In King's College.

Charles L.—In possession of Mr. Campbell, Royal Bank, Edinburgh.

Earl of Tweeddale.—In possession of the marquis of Tweeddale.

Andrew Fraser, of Muchills; His wife, daughter of the family of Forbes; Two heads unknown.—In the possession of Charles Fraser, Inverallochie.

Two Sandilands of the Torpichen family.—In the possession of Wauchope of Niddrie.

Sandilands of Cottown.—In the possession of Mr. Paul of Aberdeen.

General David Leslie; Sir Alexander Fraser of Frasersburgh; William Forbes, first bishop of Edinburgh;

Sir

Sir Thomas Nicolson, lord-advocate.—In the possession of William Urquhart of Craigston.

Sir Thomas Nicolson, lord-advocate.—In the possession of the earl of Kinnoul.

Earl of Huntly, called Luckenhand.—In the possession of the countess-dowager of Aberdeen.

James VI. a full length.

Carnegie of Southesk ; Carnegie of Northesk ; Carnegie of Craigs ; Carnegie of Dunnichen.—In the possession of Sir David Carnegie of Southesk.

Patrick Forbes, bishop of Aberdeen.—In the possession of Sir William Forbes, Craigievar.

David Anderson, of Finzeauch, merchant, burgess of Aberdeen, commonly called “Davie do a’ thing,” uncle to Jameson ; Mr. Alexander Robertson, town-clerk of Aberdeen ; Another not known.—In the possession of Charles Bannerman, Esq. Aberdeen, married to his great-great-grand-daughter.

Alexander Bannerman of Elsieck in 1643.—In the possession of Sir Alexander Bannerman, Bart.

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WE regret, that in our short notice relative to Hugh Irvine, Esq. it was omitted to mention his picture of Castle-street, Aberdeen. The view is taken from the east, looking down into Union-street, and rendered peculiarly interesting from several well-disposed groups of figures, some of which are striking portraits. This picture was exhibited at Somerset House in the month of May last.

From the information with which we have been favoured, we are inclined to think that, although there may be several individual pictures of the old masters in some of the houses of the nobility and gentry in the county of Aberdeen ; yet there is hardly any number to be found, except in one or two instances, which can  
 with

with any propriety be termed a collection. There are some pictures of the old masters in Seaton House, the residence of James Forbes, Esq.; and Alexander Brebner, Esq. of Lairney, has in his possession several pictures of the Italian school: but we believe, the best collection in this country is in the possession of Sir William Forbes, Bart. of Craigivar, at Fintray House. The Cumean Sybil, by Guercino, purchased at Florence, in that collection, was, in the opinion of the late Sir Joshua Reynolds, the finest production of that master; and the boy, in the corner of that picture, pointing to the Sybylean record of our Saviour's birth, equal to the finest effort of the pencil of Guido. St. John in the wilderness by Carlo Dolce, in the same collection, is a rare specimen of that master. In this collection are also included pictures by Snyders, Wovermans, Gerard Dow, Vanderneer, and others, the old masters of the Flemish school.

In this city, in the collection of Mr. Ewen, there are specimens of the works of Caravagio, Vandyck, Sckalken, Bourgoinone, Paul Bril, Rubens, Guido, Old Franks, Vandevelde, Titian, Barroccio, Job Berkheyden, Van Diest, 'Orrozzonti, Corregio, Rembrandt, Breughel, Marco Benefial, Francisco Bolognese, Poussin, Spagnoletto, Panini, Stoccade, Patel, Hans Holbein, Egbert Hemskerck, Vandermeulin, Baptist, Van Goyen, Rambouts, Brawer, Oetade, Raysdaal, Ferguson, Hondekoeter, Valesquez, and others of the old masters; with those of a later period, by Chatelain, Sir Godfrey Kneller, Dodd, Abraham Pether, Angelica Kauffman, Zoffany, and others of, and from, artists of more modern times.

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THE Chapter on Literature and the Arts, together with the very judicious and benevolent proposition of a Scheme of permanent provision for the Widows and Children of Burgesses, were drawn up for this work at the Author's request, by a Gentleman, to whom he cannot avoid, on this occasion, expressing his strong sense of obligation.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

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#### UNITED PUBLIC LIBRARY.

**T**HIS institution was established long ago, and its character has gradually risen with the liberal support it has received from the public. There are about 52,000 volumes in this library, and that number is daily augmented by the addition of most of the new and popular works which constantly issue from the press. There are also many old and valuable books to be found in this library, which altogether contains a greater collection of works of merit than any similar provincial institution in the kingdom.

The terms of subscription are moderate; and every attention is given to the accommodation of the subscribers, by Mr. Forbes Frost, the librarian. The library is situated in Broad-street, and is kept open from

eight o'clock morning, to nine at night. It was formerly kept in a floor above the Athenæum, but was removed to Broad-street last year, where the book-selling and stationary business is carried on by the same concerns.

Terms of subscription for the *Aberdeen Circulating Library*, viz. 21s. a-year; 12s. a half year; 7s. 6d. a quarter,—entitles a subscriber to all the new publications as they come out: 15s. a year; 9s. a half-year; 5s. a quarter,—entitles a subscriber to all the books in the printed catalogue, but none of the new publications, till they are printed in an appendix, which is published annually. Any number of books can be had by paying accordingly.

*Athenæum*.—This news-room, or literary establishment, was commenced about nine years ago, and is situated in Castle-street. It is supported by about 250 subscribers, who pay each one guinea and a half annually. The most of the London, Edinburgh, and provincial newspapers are received, as well as many pamphlets, magazines, &c. The subscribers to this institution, include the most-part of the respectable people in the town and neighbourhood.

*Literary and Commercial News Room*.—This establishment is much older than the former, and is situated in the Netherkirkgate. There are above a hundred subscribers, who are accommodated with the London, Edinburgh, and provincial papers, the reviews and magazines.

zines.—It is conducted by Mr. Alexander Stevenson, bookseller.

*Caledonian Literary Society.*—This society was instituted about seven years ago, for the purpose of establishing a permanent library, to contain the most approved books in science and literature. It is the property of the subscribers, who pay 10s. 6d. of entry money, and 6s. yearly; besides contributing one book each to the collection. The society have already several hundred volumes of valuable books; and their stock is fast increasing by the frequent addition of reputable works.

*Dentists.*—Gentlemen of this profession formerly visited Aberdeen; but, till lately, there was no professional person resident in this city. One gentleman, indeed, who had studied the anatomy and diseases of the teeth, occasionally practised among his friends, but without *taking fees*. Mr. Crombie, however, in Castle-street, having devoted his whole attention to the prevention and cure of diseases in the teeth, as well as to the making and placing of sets and single teeth—there has been no encouragement given to any other person in that line since his commencement; and indeed, his great skill and dexterity in the profession, are so well known, that none have attempted to rival him.

*Musical Instrument Manufactory.*—An establishment of this kind was commenced four years ago, by Messrs  
Knowles

Knowles and Allen, with every prospect of success; and from the prevailing taste for music, and the superior manner in which the instruments are finished, their business is rapidly increasing. They make *organs, piano-fortes, violins, guitars*, and in fact, all sorts of musical instruments, and also supply their customers and the public with musical books. They sell their instruments at fair prices, and find an ample demand, not only in Scotland, but even in London, to which place they annually send instruments of all descriptions.

*Theatre.*—A neat theatre was built some years ago in Marischal-street, by a society of gentlemen, who let it to the highest bidder; and it produces a rent of L.200 sterling a year. It is kept open for three or four months during winter and spring. The house, when full, may produce from L.60 to L.70, at the present prices; but in general, the receipts are not half so much: and on the whole, it has not been a profitable concern to the players.

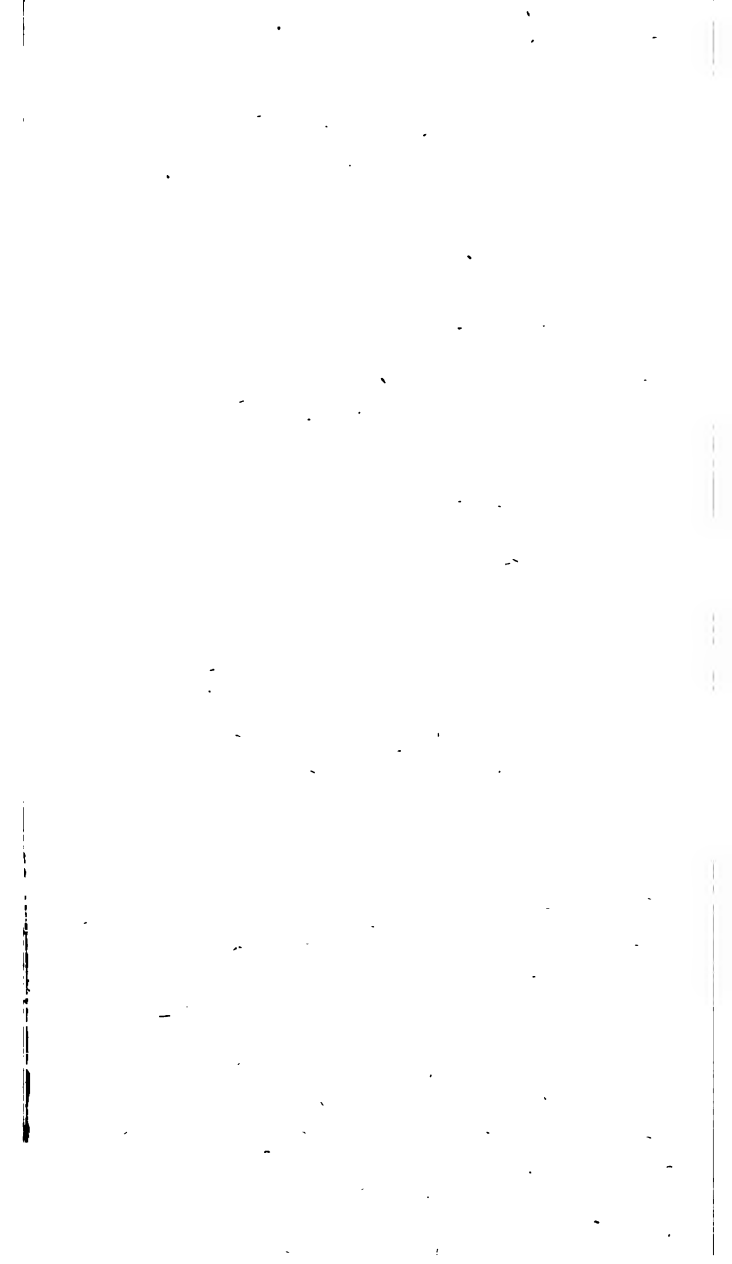
*Taverns or Hotels.*—The *New Inn*, Castle-street, is kept by Mr. Cleugh, and may be considered as the first hotel in the town.—Mr. Dempster's hotel is situated in Union-street.—Mr. Ronald's, in Huxter Row;—and Mr. Smith's, in King-street.—These inns are all of the first rank; and for the variety and elegance of their entertainments, are exceeded by none in Scotland.

*List*



*List of Provosts from 1782 to 1811, inclusive.—*  
1782-3, William Young; 1784-5, William Cruden;  
1786, James Jopp; 1787-8, John Abercrombie;  
1789-90, William Cruden; 1791-2, George Auldjo;  
1793-4, John Abercrombie; 1795-6, George More;  
1797-8 Thomas Leys; 1799-1800, John Dingwall;  
1801-2, James Hadden; 1803-4, Thomas Leys;  
1805-6, Alexander Brebner; 1807-8, George More;  
1809-10, James Hadden; 1811, James Young.

## APPENDIX.



# **SCHEME**

**FOR MAKING**

**PROVISION FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS**

**OF THE**

**BURGESSES OF GUILD OF THE CITY OF  
ABERDEEN.**

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**I**N the course of enumerating the different Friendly Societies of this city, with their various establishments for the benefit of the widows and children of the members, it certainly must excite considerable surprize to reflect, that no institution, upon the principle of an equitable assurance, has ever been adopted by the burgesses of guild. It is obvious that they form, by the constitution of this, and every other borough in Scotland, the most distinguished and leading branch of the community ; and with the artificers, or incorporated tradesmen, are alone, in a legal sense, the constituent members of the corporation.

In this public character and capacity, they are indeed represented by the magistrates and council ; but, as merchants and manufacturers, forming the guild of the city, they are without that provision for their wives and families, to which they are, from their situation in  
T life,

life, so peculiarly intitled, and which would so much contribute to their respectability and comfort.

It is true, they have, in consequence of the sum paid into the treasury of the borough, at the time they are admitted members of the guild, a title, "*in case of necessity*," to an allowance from the public funds. But this *pittance*, invariably granted at the discretion of the magistrates and council, and in consequence of a petition setting forth "*the necessity of the case*," is, whatever its amount may be, always obtained, not merely as a matter of right, but in the nature of an eleemosynary grant, and, in every view, in the guise and form of a deed of charity.

This is a mortifying circumstance ; but it is, without doubt, in a great measure owing to the general ideas which prevailed at the time these funds were established, and the predominating principles and opinions by which the persons then in office were influenced. Times and opinions, however, are greatly changed. The habits and expence of living are materially altered ; and these changes call for a corresponding provision, according to rank and situation. If, therefore, an institution of the deepest importance to its members, has hitherto been neglected, ought it not now to be adopted without farther delay ?

Indeed it has been frequently thought of, and in one instance, considerable progress had been made by some individuals towards the establishment of an institution of this sort. Upwards of twenty years since, considerable pains were taken to promote such an institution, by an association of the burgesses of guild, under the combined

combined idea of a chamber of commerce, and the establishment of a fund as a provision for widows and children. Rules for the government of this necessary institution, were drawn up, and at that time circulated, and very generally approved of. But by a very strange and inexplicable conduct of two gentlemen who borrowed, for some pretended public purpose, a considerable portion of the original fund, and refused to pay it back to the treasurer, who held their note of hand for the sum borrowed, under the plea that the society had no *nomen juris*, the members were disgusted, and this excellent plan was at that time lost to the public. This happened too after the society had actually acquired a form and substance, by an election of executive managers, and when a deposit of the entry-money and first annual payment had been placed in the treasurer's hands.

But the gentleman to whom had been committed the formation of the original plan, and who had framed the rules for its constitution and government, in the view of providing for its farther improvement, had procured a set of tables upon a moderate scale, founded on the principles of an equitable assurance; and these were furnished to him by Dr. Richard Price, the most eminent calculator and mathematician then living; and whose calculations for the Equitable Assurance Office, Blackfriars-bridge, London, under the management of his nephew, Mr. Morgan, have maintained their reputation, while many schemes on a pretended similar principle, and held out to the public as advantageous, have proved illusory and deceptive.

These tables were afterwards examined, and approved of by other able calculators; but unfortunately, the temporary disgust excited by the failure of the former well digested scheme, occasioned an indifference in the burgesses to enter into any new plan, however well formed and established on principles the most solid and indisputable. The proposal, however, appears of a nature so valuable and important, as not to be unworthy of a place in the History of Aberdeen.

Viewing it as a proposition of considerable utility, a copy of the tables are annexed in their original form, as furnished by Dr. Price, which may be easily altered or extended, according to the desire of the burgesses. Of all establishments, as a future provision for families, none is so little liable to exception as that which is founded on the principle of *equitable assurance*, and the probabilities of human life. Indeed experience has so fully proved its certainty and effect, that it is now left destitute of any the most trivial objection. The fine, or premium, at entry, as well as the after annual payment, are entirely regulated by the age of the person becoming a member, and, of course, on the most fair and equitable principle. To commercial people it comes recommended by every consideration connected with their situation in life; and therefore, to the burgesses of guild in this city, it is now seriously and earnestly recommended.

How many well-principled and industrious young men have set out in the world with the fairest prospects, followed up with a life of corresponding application.

cation ; but who, after having supposed themselves in certain possession of an ample provision for their families, by a train of unforeseen accidents, in which they themselves had no portion of blame, have been reduced to a state of deep depression, or suddenly cut off by a short illness, while those they have left behind were suffered to pine in want, or struggle through life on the most slender pittance. This melancholy, but unexaggerated picture, might be filled up with numerous examples in illustration—but it is needless. The observations of the intelligent and sympathetic reader will abundantly supply them. It is sufficient to add, that if the burgesses of guild of the city of Aberdeen, have been hitherto inattentive to a duty so eminently incumbent, and to what so intimately connected itself with their best interests, let them neglect no longer the establishment of a fund for the benefit of their families on the principles of an equitable assurance.

To its management, they themselves as men of business, are fully equal. They have only to determine that an institution so important to them and their families, shall be established, and its sanction, under the title of "*A Friendly Society of the Burgesses of Guild of Aberdeen,*" for this express purpose, will be easily obtained.

*THE following Tables had been very obligingly furnished by the Rev. Dr. Richard Price, upon a representation that there was an intention of establishing a Fund for a provision to the widows and children of the Burgesses of Aberdeen. It is almost unnecessary to observe, that Dr. Price's abilities, as a mathematician, are in very high estimation; that his calculations on annuities, and assurances on lives, are very much approved of; and that all the funds, upon the principles he has recommended, have stood the test of many years, and have established his reputation, as a calculator, very deservedly, in the opinion of the public. These tables have also been seen, examined, and approved of, by other calculators in this country. They are nearly the same with those furnished by Dr. Price for the clergy of London and Middlesex; and it will be observed, by looking at the tables, that the annual payment may be either diminished or extended, as the subscribers to the plan shall determine.*

**ART. 1.** **EVERY** married man, not exceeding 50 years of age, shall subscribe annually during marriage, two guineas, in order to entitle his wife, provided she is not more than fifteen years younger than himself, to an annuity of ten pounds, payable to her during her widowhood.

**ART.**



**ART. 2.** He shall make his first payment at admission; and besides his annual payment of two guineas, he shall pay the fines in the two first of the annexed tables, on account of his own and his wife's ages.

**ART. 3.** If he should die in the first year after admission, and before he has made two annual payments, his widow shall be entitled to only a quarter of an annuity. If he should die in the second year after admission, and before he has made three annual payments, or in the third year, and before he has made four annual payments, his widow shall be entitled, in the former case, to only half an annuity, and in the latter, to only three-quarters of an annuity. But should he die at any time after three years, his widow shall be entitled to a whole annuity.

**ART. 4.** Every married man, for an annual payment greater or less than two guineas, shall be entitled to an annuity proportionably greater or less, provided he also pays fines proportionably greater or less. That is, should he chuse to make his annual payment one-half less (or one guinea instead of two guineas), and to pay only half the fines in the annexed tables, his widow shall be entitled to an annuity of £1 5s; £2 10s.; £3 15s.; or £.5; according as he shall happen to die in the first, second, third, or any time after the third year from the time of his admission.

On the contrary, should he chuse to make his annual payment one-half greater (or three guineas instead of two), and to pay also fines one-half greater; that

that is, £3 15; £7 10; £11 5; and L.15, according as his death shall happen in the first, second, third, or any time after the third year from the time of his admission.

An annual payment, of four guineas, with double fines, shall entitle a widow to a double annuity; that is, to L.5; L.10; L.15; and L.20; as the death of the subscriber shall happen in the first, second, third, or at any time after the third year from the time he became a subscriber.

ART. 5. Every married person who shall desire to become a member for the benefit of his widow, shall make the following declaration: "I, A. B. aged  
"                      years, do solemnly declare, that I am,  
" at this present time, in a good state of health, and  
" that I have no distemper which, according to the  
" best of my knowledge or belief, may lead to the  
" shortening of my life."

ART. 6. Every batchelor or widower, under 40 years of age, who shall become a subscriber, and before he is 50, shall marry a person not more than 15 years younger than himself, shall entitle his widow to an addition of five shillings a year to the annuity to which his subscription after marriage shall entitle her, for every guinea which, in annual payments, or otherwise, he shall have advanced before marriage, provided he will pay his first annual contribution as a married man, with the correspondent fines, within three months  
after

after marriage, and, at the same time, make the foregoing declaration.

ART. 7. Every married man, should he die a widower, shall, for the payments during life, in the third of the annexed tables, entitle such of his children, under age, as shall be living at the time of his decease, to L.100, payable among them in such shares as he shall appoint, or, in default of such appointment, in equal shares. — For half-payments, such children shall be entitled to L.50. — For payments one-half greater, to L.150. — For double payments, to L.200.

TABLES of Fines to be paid by a subscriber of L.2 2s. per annum.

TABLE I.

For the excess of the Husband's Age above 30.

Age.	Fine.			Age.	Fine.		
	L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.
31 —————	0	12	0	41 —————	6	9	0
32 —————	1	4	0	42 —————	7	1	0
33 —————	1	14	0	43 —————	7	6	0
34 —————	2	4	0	44 —————	7	11	0
35 —————	2	14	0	45 —————	7	17	0
36 —————	3	5	0	46 —————	8	4	0
37 —————	3	17	0	47 —————	8	12	0
38 —————	4	9	0	48 —————	9	0	0
39 —————	5	2	0	49 —————	9	7	0
40 —————	5	16	0	50 —————	9	14	0
				51 —————	10	0	0

TABLE II.

Shewing the Fine due from a Subscriber of L.2 2s. per annum, on account of the excess of his age above his wife's age.

Husband's Age.	Fine.			Husband's Age.	Fine.		
	L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.
30 or less, ———	0	7	6	41 ———	0	9	6
31 ———	0	7	6	42 ———	0	10	0
32 ———	0	7	6	43 ———	0	10	0
33 ———	0	7	6	44 ———	0	10	0
34 ———	0	8	0	45 ———	0	10	6
35 ———	0	8	0	46 ———	0	10	6
36 ———	0	8	0	47 ———	0	11	0
37 ———	0	8	6	48 ———	0	11	6
38 ———	0	8	6	49 ———	0	12	0
39 ———	0	9	0	50 ———	0	13	0
40 ———	0	9	0	51 ———	0	14	0

TABLE III.

Shewing the values of L.100 payable to such children, *under age*, of a married man, as shall happen to be living at the time of his death, provided he leaves no widow.

Age.	Annual Paymt. during life.			Husb. Age.	An. Pay. during life.		
	L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.
27 or less, ———	0	10	0	40 ———	0	16	6
28 ———	0	10	6	41 ———	0	17	0
29 ———	0	11	0	42 ———	0	17	6
30 ———	0	12	0	43 ———	0	18	0
31 ———	0	13	0	44 ———	0	18	6
32 ———	0	13	6	45 ———	0	19	0
33 ———	0	13	6	46 ———	1	0	0
34 ———	0	14	0	47 ———	1	1	0
35 ———	0	14	0	48 ———	1	2	0
36 ———	0	14	6	49 ———	1	3	0
37 ———	0	15	0	50 ———	1	4	0
38 ———	0	15	6	51 ———	1	5	0
39 ———	0	16	0	52 ———	1	6	0

Interest reckoned at 4 per cent.

# APPENDIX.

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No. I.

## UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE OF ABERDEEN.

The following account of the King's College of Aberdeen was drawn up for Sir John Sinclair, and is printed in his Statistical work. It has been revised by the Gentlemen of the College, who have made several additions; and it may now be deemed a correct statement of every thing worth recording relative to that Seminary.

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### INTRODUCTION.

IT may be remarked, to the credit of Great Britain, that its inhabitants have not only erected some very celebrated universities at home, but have also been the means of establishing similar institutions in foreign countries. At first, these institutions resembled in some respects schools, more than universities; only two faculties, that of arts and that of theology having place in them: afterwards, however, two others, law and medicine, were added; which completed the whole course or system of education as then taught. It is but justice to Scotland here to observe, how much the revival of learn-

ing may be attributed to natives of that country. Of this the French in particular were so sensible, that, four nations only being at first admitted into the university of Paris, the Scots were placed next to the French, *properly so called*, and above the Picards and Normans. It appears that so long ago as the reign of king Malcolm IV. there existed at Old Aberdeen a *Studium generale in Collegio Canoniorum Aberdonensium*, where there were professors and doctors, both of divinity, and of canon and civil laws. This *Collegium Canonicum* was instituted by Edward, bishop of Aberdeen, anno 1157, soon after the episcopal see had been translated from Mortlach, and subsisted, as we find in Hector Boece's lives of the bishops of Aberdeen, until the foundation of the college by bishop Elphinston.

*Institution of the University, &c.*—In the year 1494, pope Alexander VI. by a bull dated at Rome, February 10th, instituted in the city of Old Aberdeen, or *Aberdon*, as it is there called, an university, or *Studium generale et Universas Studii generalis*, for theology, canon and civil laws, medicine, the liberal arts, and every other lawful faculty. In it, ecclesiastics, laics, masters, and doctors, are appointed to read, and teach those who come to pursue their studies, from what parts soever, in like manner as in other privileged universities. It is farther appointed, that the students, according to merit, shall receive the degrees of Baccalaureat, Licentiate, Master, and Doctor; and powers of granting the same are specially conferred. With these degrees are bestowed all the privileges, pre-eminencies,

eminencies, liberties, exemptions, favours and indulgencies, which are known to belong to any other university ; and that, not only within this, but every other university, *ubique terrarum*, without any farther examination. Lastly, it is appointed, that William Elphinston, then bishop of Aberdeen, and his successors in office, should be chancellors of the university, and sole judges in all causes criminal and civil, ecclesiastical or temporal, affecting its members. It was on the supplication of bishop Elphinston, that king James IV. applied for this bull. By his royal authority, the king might have granted the requisite privileges and immunities within his own kingdom ; but he conceived that it required the plenitude of the papal power to extend them *ubique terrarum*. The king, in his letter, gives a most deplorable account of the barbarous state of the north, or Highlands of Scotland, at that time. It is there stated, " that the inhabitants were ignorant of letters, and almost uncivilized ; that there were no persons to be found fit to preach the word of God to the people, or to administer the sacraments of the church ; and besides, that the country was so intersected with mountains and arms of the sea, so distant from the universities already erected, and the roads so dangerous, that the youth had not access to the benefit of education in those seminaries. But," adds the king, " the city of Old Aberdeen is situated at a moderate distance from the highland country and northern islands ; enjoys an excellent temperature of air, abundance of provisions, and the conveniency of habita-

"tion, and of every thing necessary for human life." He therefore requests that an university may be instituted there, comprehending every lawful faculty.

As two universities had already been erected in Scotland, it might have occurred, as an objection to the institution of a third, that two had been thought sufficient for the whole of England; "but," says the bull, "science has this distinguishing quality, that the diffusion of it tends not to diminish, but to increase the general mass." Of the same date, the pope granted a mandate to the bishops of Aberdeen and Dunblane, and the abbot of Cambuskenneth, or any two or more of them, to publish the above bull, and effectually to defend and patronise the doctors, masters, and scholars, in all their privileges and immunities, and cause the statutes and institutions to be inviolably observed\*. The execution of this mandate did not take place till the 25th of February, 1496; on which day, within the cathedral church of Aberdeen, William Elphinston, the worthy bishop of that diocese, caused Matthew Pocock, a public notary, to publish the

\* There are some differences between the bull of Alexander VI. and the bull of pope Nicolas V. in 1457, by which the university of Glasgow was erected. It appears, however, by the coincidence of expression, that the person who drew up pope Alexander's bull for Aberdeen, had that of pope Nicolas before him; or perhaps there was a general form for all such grants, though occasionally varied as circumstances might render necessary. The original foundation-charter, papal bulls, and other papers referred to, are still extant in the charter-chest of King's College.



the above bull, in presence of Mr. Archibald Lindsay, cantor, Andrew Leith, treasurer, and the other members of the chapter. The same pope, by another bull dated 1495, annexed the church of Aberluthnot, now Marykirk, and hail revenue of the hospital of St. Germans, to the university. By the charter of confirmation of James IV. May 22, 1497, the king empowers bishop Elphinston to erect a college within the university, and to divide its revenues among the masters and scholars as he shall think proper, according to commission and authority given him by the pope. In consequence of these powers, bishop Elphinston, the chancellor, made and published his first foundation in his life-time; leaving at his death, a second or enlarged foundation, which was published by his successor, bishop Gavin Dunbar, in the cathedral, anno 1531, after establishing its authenticity by a solemn inquisition and proof. These two foundation charters are the written law, in all questions and disputes that may happen to arise among the members of the university.

By the first foundation, dated 1505, and confirmed by pope Julius's bull in 1506, he erects and endows *univ. Collegium scholarium studentium ad magistrorum sub vocabulo* SANCTE MARIE IN NATIVITATE. This college consisted of 36 persons; but by the second foundation, confirmed by a bull of pope Clement VII., 1526, the number was augmented to forty-two; viz. four doctors, in the faculties of theology, canon law, civil law, and medicine; the first of these to be called principal: eight masters of arts, whereof the first to be called

sub-principal ; the second, grammarian ; and the other six, students in theology : six batchelors in arts (all the above, except the mediciner, to be in priest's orders) : thirteen poor scholars : eight prebends for the service of the church, of which the first to be cantor, the second, sacrist ; and six singing boys.

*Original Constitution.*—It appears from the foregoing statement, that though an university had been established in the city of Old Aberdeen in 1494; yet no college was founded within it till 1506. During the years that intervened between the time of instituting the university, and that of founding the college, doctors, masters, and students existed, and were endowed in the university by popes' bulls and royal donations ; but they did not form a college. They might reside, study, and teach in any place within the university, but were subject to no particular rules or discipline. To prevent the inconveniences that might thence arise, was the intention of bishop Elphinston in founding his college ; and as it is the only one that has ever been erected in this university, it therefore possesses within itself the whole rights and privileges of an university. This college having been soon after taken under the immediate protection of the king, its name was changed from that of St. Mary's to King's College ; and the whole incorporation has been since with propriety denominated, *The University and King's College of Aberdeen.*

*Administration of the Funds, and Government of the Members.*—In this incorporation, the administration of the  
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the funds, and government of the members, are vested in the principal, sub-principal, regents, and professors, assembled in a college meeting, or *senatus academicus*; from which there lies an appeal, in *prima instantia*, to the rector and assessors, and finally to the chancellor of the university. There remain vestiges of the ancient division of the members into four nations, each having their head or procurator. These had considerable authority in the university of Paris\*, which was the model of that of Aberdeen; but are now perfectly in dissuetude here, except at certain elections, when they are chosen in *hunc effectum*; and are denominated the nations of Lothian, Murray, Angus, and Mar.

*Conservators.*—In the days of popery the conservators, as they are called, were counted an important part of the constitution. Two classes of these were appointed: one by the pope, called Apostolical Conservators, intended for the preservation of the rights and privileges conferred on the university by the see of Rome; the other by royal charter, called the Royal Conservators, for conservation of those conferred by the crown. These last are instituted and nominated in a charter under the great seal, anno 1498. They were

\* The *procuratores nationum* of the university of Paris, directed all the transactions and correspondence of the students with their friends in the country; and by sending regular carriers to the distant provinces for that purpose, gave the first proof of the benefit arising from a regular communication between the different parts of the kingdom; which led to the institution of Posts through Europe.

were, the sheriff of Aberdeen, or his depute; 2dly, The provost of the royal borough of Aberdeen (*aldermanus burgi nostri de Aberdeen*); and, 3dly, *Rector episcopi Aberdonen. pro tempore, de civitate veteri Aberdonen.*: who are appointed “*conservatores privilegiorum universorum, jurium, libertatum et commoditatum predictæ nostræ universitatis et studii generatis, ut hujusmodi conservari et defendi faciant adeo libere et cum omni potestate et jurisdictione, sicut conservatores in præfata universitate Parisiensi habent a Christianissimis Francorum regibus, absque interruptione vel violatione quibuscunque.*” The apostolical conservators are appointed by a papal bull of Alexander VI. dated nonas Julii 1500, anno pontificatus nostri 8vo. The conservators named were, the bishop of Aberdeen, and the abbots of Cambuskenneth and Scone; with the clause, *duo vel unus vestrum, per vos vel per alium.*—All the members of the university being sworn at their entry to subordination and obedience to the statutes, he who refused to appear before the university when lawfully summoned, or who was found to have trespassed against the statutes, was declared infamous or perjured; and if he did not submit, the apostolical conservators were applied to, who were empowered by the pope’s bull, above quoted, to inflict ecclesiastical censure without appeal.

*Procurator, or Common Receiver.*—The collection and distribution of the revenue is committed to a procurator, or common receiver, who is elected, *de gremio et fundatione collegii*, by the principal, canonist, civilist, mediciner,

mediciner, sub-principal, grammarian, cantor, and sacrist, for such a space of time as they may think fit. It is declared to be his duty to collect the college revenue, and to pay the masters and scholars the respective salaries allotted them by the foundation; for which trouble he received five merks extraordinary. He is to be admitted by the chancellor, or, in his absence, or during the vacancy of the episcopal see, by the rector. He is empowered to set in tack, and even to feu out (*arrendare et ad firmam demittere*), the teinds and lands of the college, with the advice, and by the authority of his electors, or the major part of them, to the common utility of the college, and no otherwise. At his election, he is to find sufficient security, otherwise he is not to be admitted to the office. There is another office-bearer of a similar nature mentioned in the foundation, and there stiled "*bursarius communis*," who is to receive the bursaries in every faculty, and to render an account to the faculty of arts. The appointment of this office-bearer has been long discontinued, and his duty conjoined with that of the common procurator. The provisor, or *aconomus*, is appointed to be elected by the principal, sub-principal, and regents: his business is to find provision for the several regents, students, and others, who were bound to reside within the college. The procurator is to advance money to him daily.

*Of the Chancellor.*—By pope Alexander's bull, as mentioned above, anno 1494, bishop Elphinston and his successors, bishops of Aberdeen, are appointed *ex officio*

**officio** chancellors of the university. In Paris, the pattern university, there are two chancellors of inferior power and dignity to the rector, viz. the chancellor of Notre Dame and of St. Genevieve.—In this there is but one; he is, however, of supreme power. By the same bull it is appointed that those whom the rector of the university, with the major part of the regents, masters, or doctors of the respective faculties, shall recommend to promotion to the degree of doctor, master, licentiate, or *baccalarius* in any of the faculties, shall be promoted by the chancellor, or whom he deputes for that purpose. The chancellor is also appointed, with the advice of the rector and resident doctors, licentiates, and scholars; and two at least of the king's counsellors, to make and enact statutes for the good government of the university. The chancellor admits to their respective offices the principal, canonist, professor of civil law, medicus, sub-principal, grammarians, cantor, and sacrist. If a vacancy is protracted beyond a month, he presents to all the offices without exception. Whatever abuses are represented to him by the visitors, he reforms by their advice. If the visitors neglect to do their duty, the chancellor visits *per seipsum*. When there is a vacancy of the bishop's see, or when the bishop is absent (*in remotis agentis*), the duty of visitation belongs to the chapter, or to its *vicarius* deputed by the chapter. It also belongs to the chancellor to remove from their offices those who neglect their duty, after being frequently admonished by the principal.—Since the abolition of episcopacy, the chancellor has always been elected

elected by the principal and professors, and continues in office for life.

**Rector and Assessors.**—The rector of the university is the person next in dignity to the chancellor, and is called *Lord Rector*. He, with his assessors, has power to visit the college, *tam in capite quam in membris*, to examine into the state of the buildings, and the management of the revenue, &c., and report to the chancellor. The election to this office is annual; and has been uniformly exercised by the principal, sub-principal, and other members of the college, convened in a college meeting.—Although there be no rule in the foundation for the election of the four assessors, yet it mentions particularly that they should be *probi viri*, and masters of arts in the university, chosen and deputed to visit the college. They are chosen annually along with the rector; and it is their duty to assist him in his courts, where they sit as members.—The rector may be chosen *de collegio* or *extra collegium*; but he must actually reside within the university.

**Courts for Delinquencies.**—The gradation of the courts for punishing delinquencies in the college is established in the foundation in the following order. 1st, When any person belonging to the college, is found guilty of any delinquency, he is to be corrected by the principal, sub-principal, and regents. 2dly, If the delinquent contemns their authority, and refuses to submit to their award, he is to be punished by the rector and his court. 3dly, If he continues in his contumacy, he

is to be brought before the chancellor, who may inflict a punishment suited to his original delinquency aggravated by obstinacy, and even expel him from the university.

*Principal*.—The person first in dignity in the college, considered as a corporation, subordinate to the university, is the principal. He was to receive forty marks yearly of salary, besides his lodging in the college, and half the expence of his entertainment when he did duty personally. The principal was appointed to wear the doctoral habit of the university of Paris. It was his particular province to enforce discipline, and superintend the morals of the students; besides giving daily lectures in philosophy, and occasionally visiting those given by the regents. He must be elected by the rector, the four *procuratores nationum*, the doctors of canon and civil laws, the doctor of medicine, the sub-principal, grammarian, students in theology, cantor, and sacrist; or by the major part of them; and admitted by the chancellor of the university. At his election, he is to be a *magister in theologia si commode haberi potest*; otherwise a licentiate in that faculty, *cum rigore examinis*; and within a year, is to be promoted to the *gradus magistratus* in that faculty.

*Professors of Canon Law, Civil Law, and Medicine*.—The persons next in order to the principal were, the teachers of canon law, civil law, and medicine: all three, in like manner, licentiates in their several faculties



culties (*si doctores commode haberi non possint*), and to be promoted to that degree within the year. The canonist's salary is equal to that of the principal; the civilist's L.20; and that of the mediciner, 20 merks: each having besides, a manse, garden, and glebe. Their duty was to prelect every lecture day in their several faculties, dressed in their proper habits: that of the doctor of canon law was to be conformable to the sacred canons of the *alma universitas Parisiensis*; that of the doctor of civil law, the same as that of the faculty of Orleans. The electors of these three doctors were the same with those of the principal; only the students of divinity, cantor and sacrist are omitted.

*Sub-Principal.*—The sub-principal came next in order to the doctors; and was elected by nearly the same persons with the principal, and admitted by the chancellor.

*Regents in Arts.*—The six students in theology were elected by the three doctors above mentioned, the sub-principal, grammarian, and regents, and admitted by the principal. These students were elected *tanto tempore quod ad doctoratus gradum in eadem facultate valeant promoveri, quod erat ad sex annos tantum*; after which they were to remove and make way for others. The founder appointed such a number of them as should be chosen by the principal and sub-principal, *ad regentiam in artibus*. After a trial of somewhat more than thirty years, this perpetually changing set of teachers in the arts was found exceedingly inconvenient; few of the

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students

students in divinity made such progress during the prescribed term of six years, as to be found qualified for the degree of D. D. ; and besides, the time of continuance of the regency was considered to be so short, that when one set had accomplished their course, others could not be found to succeed them. These inconveniences having been represented to pope Paul the Third, by William Stewart, bishop of Aberdeen, his Holiness, by a *breve indulti*, anno 1538, prorogued the term of six years ; and allowed these regents and students in theology to continue to reside in the college, and exercise their functions, until others were found willing and fit to succeed them, and as long as the bishop of Aberdeen for the time should think proper. We shall see afterwards in what manner these regulations of the pope tended to introduce the present permanent establishment of the regents.

*Duty of Sub-Principal and Regents.*—The sub-principal and regents were to instruct their scholars in the liberal sciences, in the manner practised by the regents in the university of Paris. The branches taught were logic, philosophy, and metaphysics.

*Residence of the Principal and other Members.*—The principal, sub-principal, regents and students were to reside within the college ; and the canonist, mediciner, grammarian, and civilist, within their manses.

*No vacation, except in the Magistrand Class.*—There was to be no vacation, during the whole year, excepting

ing in the magistrand class, in which the thirteen college bursaries in arts remained vacant from the first of April to the first of October exclusive, that is, from the promotion of the magistrands, to the *novum auditorium*. The principal, with the advice of the sub-principal, is to chuse, from among the students in divinity, the regent who begins the course, and continues for the four succeeding years.

*Grammarian.*—The grammarian is to receive twenty merks of salary. He is to teach grammar, poetry, and rhetoric. He is to be chosen by the principal, *procuratores nationum*, doctors, sub-principal, regents, cantor, and sacrist, and admitted by the chancellor.

*Divine Worship in College Chapel.*—Beside the charge of instruction and education, the above persons, along with the cantor, sacrist, and chaplains, had the charge of divine worship in the college chapel on Sunday, and all the holidays, according to an order and rules very particularly laid down in the foundation.

*Medical Professorship.*—It is worthy of observation, that among the original members founded by bishop Elphinston, we find a professor of canon law, and a professor of medicine; none of which professorships are known to have been at that time established in the other universities of Scotland. It is probable that this early institution of a medical professorship in the university of Aberdeen, was owing to the king's own predilection for that science, in which he is said to have

been "a willing and a skilful practitioner:" and we find certain annual rents mentioned in the foundation, as particular assigned by the king for the support of this office. Physicians appear to have been in great request about that time in the north of Scotland; for in 1503, the town-council of Aberdeen appointed ten marks yearly to be paid to James Cumin, physician, to induce him to stay in the town "till he could be provided with a salmon fishing of the usual rent, but without paying any grassum." This is probably the same James Cumin who died professor of medicine in 1521; and he appears to have been the first who held that office.

#### HISTORY.

*Commencement of Education.*—It cannot be determined from any of the college records, how long it was after the date of pope Alexander's bull of erection, before the teaching and lectures began. We may take it for granted that at least nine years elapsed, as the date of bishop Elphinston's first foundation, is anno 1505. This point might have been determined with sufficient precision, if Hector Boece, when describing very particularly his polite reception by the canons of the cathedral of Aberdeen, on his return from Paris, had thought proper to subjoin a date: for his words (*vitæ* p. 2. fol. 26.) imply, that the teaching must have been begun upon his arrival, and, as appears from his relation, with the happiest consequences: "Exactâ inde et perseveranti diligentia effectum

“ *fectum est, ut brevi post tempore præstante disciplina viri ex Aberdonensi universali academia prodierunt, in divinis literis, et utroque jure ; permulti in philosophia.*”

*Additional Revenue by James IV. and Bishop Elphinston.*—To the original endowments of the university, consisting of the revenues of the hospital of St. Germans, at Tranent in Lothian (which comprehended the churches of Aberluthnot, Glenmyck, and Abergardyn), king James IV. added the tithes of the parishes of Slains, Auchindore, and Tillynessle, in the county of Aberdeen, with certain lands and rents in the county of Banff. Bishop Elphinston likewise added the lands of Balnakettle, Mundurno, Berryhill, and others, in the county of Aberdeen ; most of which have been lost by various accidents, and some of them repurchased.

*Buildings.*—At his own expence chiefly, but not without some aid from royal munificence, the bishop built the necessary edifices, in a style certainly magnificent for Scotland in that age ; and such of those buildings as remain not much changed, bear testimony to the good taste of the founder.

*Professors' Glebes.*—Having with great pains been able to accomplish the purchase of various lands adjoining to and surrounding the edifice, to the extent of 24 acres, he appropriated these for the glebes, gardens, and houses, of the professors.

*Bishop Elphinston's Bequest of L.10,000*.—Bishop Elphinston died in 1514, before his beneficent plans had been completed : but he bequeathed for that purpose, the sum of ten thousand pounds Scots, in gold and silver then lying in his coffers.

*Bishop Dunbar*.—What bishop Elphinston left unfinished, was carried forward by bishop Gavin Dunbar ; who, during the thirteen years that he filled the see, from 1518 to 1532, is said to have expended the whole revenue in pious and charitable uses. Besides the additions which he made to the edifices of the college and the cathedral, he completed the bridge over the Dee ; and, hard by the cathedral, he built an hospital, as a memorial of his name to future times.

*Bishop Stewart*.—Bishop Stewart, who next succeeded to the see, added both to the buildings and to the revenue of the college, which, till the period of the reformation, appears to have been in a very flourishing state.

*Hector Boyes, first Principal*.—The first principal, Hector Boeth, or Boyes, eminent both as a biographer and historian, was brought from the university of Paris, where he taught philosophy, by his particular friend the founder, to commence the course of education in his college of Aberdeen.

*William Hay, first Sub-Principal*.—The first sub-principal, William Hay, accompanied Hector Boyes from  
from

Paris, in which university he had also taught philosophy. He succeeded Boyes in the office of principal.

*Principal Anderson.*—John Bisset became principal after William Hay, but resigned his office at the end of six years, in favour of Alexander Anderson, who was principal at the time of the reformation. Principal Anderson's learning is commended, and his spirit in defending the edifice from a mob of reformers, whose purpose was to have stripped it of the leaden roof and the bells, in the same manner as they had treated the cathedral. But perceiving afterwards that the whole Roman Catholic establishment was going to wreck, and from the hatred he bore to the reformed religion, he alienated some of the college revenue—destroyed several of its charters, whereby many of the lands and rents of the hospital of St. Germaines were quite lost—and sold the ornaments, books, and furniture belonging to the college. In 1569 he was expelled by the commissioners of visitation, together with all the other members, on account of their adherence to popery.

*Principal Arbuthnot.*—The regent, earl of Murray, was personally present, and bestowed the office of principal on Mr. Alexander Arbuthnot, whose character stands very high for learning and worth, and the influence which he possessed among his contemporaries. In his time the revenue of the college received considerable additions, particularly the tithes belonging to the deanery and sub-chantry of Aberdeen, which

which were bestowed by king James VI. and which now constitute the principal part of its remaining income.

*Nova Fundatio.*—In the year 1578, visitors were appointed by authority of parliament, for new-modelling the state of the three Scotch universities; and in 1592 the *nova fundatio* of King's College was drawn up in name of the professors, and received the ratification of parliament in 1597.—By this model, which nearly resembled those adopted for the universities of St. Andrews and Glasgow, the whole establishment was reduced to a principal, with four regents, a professor of humanity, and some bursars.

*Principal Rait's Dilapidations.*—About this time, David Rait, principal of the college, feued off the manse and glebes belonging to the professors of medicine, civil law, canon law, and humanity; and, holding the office of procurator, or steward, together with that of principal, in his own person, for twenty years, he is accused of committing dilapidations, or *peculations* rather, in various ways, for his private advantage, and that of his friends.

*Bishop Forbes checks these abuses, &c.*—Bishop Forbes put an end to these abuses in 1619. \*Having procured a royal commission of visitation, in which he presided, he called the offending principal to account, and obliged him to refund in some measure: yet treating him very gently in respect of his learning, he allowed



allowed him to hold his office during life. It was not without much difficulty and labour, continued for several years, that this worthy prelate was able to recover the glebe and manses so unwarrantably feued off, together with some part of the other property of the society, which had been alienated and embezzled. He also, at the same time, obtained a ratification and renovation, by parliament, of the original foundation; in consequence of which, he restored all the offices abolished by the *nova fundatio*, excepting only those of the chaplains and singing boys of the choir, which the change of religion had rendered no longer necessary. The cantor, however, was retained, and seems, about this time, to have got the designation of professor of music. The constitution, thus re-established, was ratified in the most ample manner, by an act of parliament in 1633: but, in 1639, commissioners from the General Assembly, at that time more powerful than parliament, suppressed the office of canonist and cantor, as being superfluous.

Thus, contrary to what has happened in St. Andrews and Glasgow, the original foundation of this college still continues in force with very few exceptions. The most material alteration introduced by the *nova fundatio* regarded the *studentes in theologia*, or regents in arts; who, in consequence of it, became "*quatuor regentes qui juventute instituenda præsint et Principali auxiliarentur, quorum unus post Principalem subprincipalis dicitur, cui quarta classis commissa est.*" The fourth regent was to be *præfectus primæ et infirmæ classis*

*classis*, in which he taught the Greek language ; and the second and third had their several departments in philosophy and mathematics assigned to them : and thus all of them became fixed and permanent masters and regents in the college. This constitution, thus introduced, continued, notwithstanding the restoration of bishop Elphinston's foundation : the regents at that period, and down to the present time, appearing, from the records of the university, to have been permanent, and to enjoy all the privileges of other masters, such as sitting at college meetings, and voting at all elections\*.

*Professor of Divinity.*—About the year 1620, a professor of divinity was added to the founded members of the university, by contributions from the bishop and clergy of the diocese of Aberdeen ; and the election of the professor vested in the moderator of the provincial synod of Aberdeen, with two delegates from each of the eight presbyteries which constitute the

\* About the year 1741, the rights and privileges of the regents were called in question, on occasion of the election of Sir William Forbes to the office of civilist : and a process of declarator having been raised before the Court of Session by Sir William and the regents against Principal George Chalmers and the masters on the opposite side of the question, Sir William's election was found good, on account of the regents votes being sustained ; and as a separate head of declarator, it was found that the regents had a permanent right to sit in all college meetings, and to vote in all elections, and enjoy every privilege competent to the other members of bishop Elphinston's foundation.

the synod, the principal and dean of the faculty of theology of King's College, together with another of its members chosen by the university for that purpose.—The money belonging to this fund was some time after employed in purchasing lands in the parish of Kinnellar; on which king Charles the First granted a charter, dated 12th March, 1642, in favour of Mr. Adam Barclay, then professor of divinity, and his successors in office. In this charter are inserted the rules relating to the election of a professor, and the powers of the synod, with respect to his office and revenues. The election is to be made on a comparative trial, after issuing programs for that purpose; and the different heads of examination are particularly specified. In 1753, the synod, on the representation of professor Lumsden, the then incumbent, feued the above lands *in perpetuum* to the college.

*Revenue of the See of Aberdeen granted to the King's and Marischal Colleges.*—Upon the abolition of episcopacy in Scotland, in the year 1641, king Charles I. granted the revenue of the see of Aberdeen to the King's and Marischal Colleges, assigning two third parts to King's College: which gift was ratified in parliament (unprinted act 169), and by his royal charter he united them under the name of "the Caroline University." This union was confirmed by Oliver Cromwell, A. D. 1654, and continued till the Restoration; when act 15. parl. 1. Charles II. and act 1. sess. 2. rescinding all the acts of the parliament 1640, restoring episcopacy, and annulling all acts, gifts,

gifts, and deeds, in prejudice of the several bishopricks—put an end to that union, and annihilated the object of it. When episcopacy was again abolished at the revolution, the revenue of the bishoprick was differently applied.

*Marquis of Huntly Chancellor of Caroline University.*—George, marquis of Huntly, was elected chancellor of the Caroline university, by a meeting of the members held in King's College, January 1643.

*Members expelled for refusing to sign the Covenant.*—During these times of confusion, several members of the college were expelled for refusing to sign the covenant; and among these were Dr. Leslie, principal, and Dr. Forbes, professor of divinity: two of the most distinguished of those Aberdeen doctors (as they were then called), who, in the years 1638 and 1639, had maintained the controversy with the covenanters, and on whose learning and loyalty lord Clarendon has bestowed a very liberal encomium\*.—Dr. Leslie was  
received

\* "The clergy (of Scotland) were for the most part corrupted in their principles; at least, none were countenanced by the great men, or favoured by the people but such; though it must be owned their universities, especially Aberdeen, flourished under many excellent scholars, and very learned men." (*History of the Rebellion*, vol. i. p. 63.) Many curious particulars relative to this controversy are to be found in the letters of Principal Baillie, a leader among the covenanting clergy, but a man of a moderate temper and great candour. See also bishop Burnett's preface to the life of bishop Bedel.

received into the family of the earl of Huntly. Circumstances of peculiar hardship attended Dr. Forbes's case. He was the very learned son of that bishop who had so lately restored the original foundation of the college; and having been elected professor of divinity, he had purchased a house in Old Aberdeen, for himself and his successors in that office. As no clause had been inserted in the deed, reserving the use for his lifetime, he was now obliged to leave his own house to a successor!

*Singular Visitation of five Colonels, deputed by General Monk.*—A singular sort of visitation took place in 1651. General Monk sent five colonels to visit and reform the colleges, viz. Desborough, Fenwick, Mosely, Owen, and Smith. They removed from their offices principal Guild, with several of the professors; not for want of learning or diligence, in both which respects they are highly approved, but for some want of exact conformity to the standard of theological opinion at that time adopted by the army. Principal Row, and the other members who succeeded, are commended as learned and prudent men. In other respects, however, these military visitors treated the college not unkindly. The large building erected at this time on the north-east corner of the court, for the accommodation of the students, is said to have been greatly forwarded by a contribution from general Monk's officers.

*Restoration.*—On the restoration of monarchy in  
c 1660,

1660, the bishops of Aberdeen resumed all their original authority, as chancellors of the university; and many things that had fallen into disorder during the preceding troubles, were now regulated in conformity to bishop Elphinston's foundation, as revived in 1619.

*Bishop Scougal.*—Under the mild and intelligent superintendence of bishop Scougal, the state of the university seems to have been uncommonly prosperous, and the offices were all filled with men qualified for their stations.

*Professor of Oriental Languages.*—On the suggestion of this worthy prelate, a professor of oriental languages was established in the university, for the advantage of the students in divinity. A salary of 300 merks was appropriated out of the common funds; and Mr. Patrick Gordon, professor of humanity, was chosen first professor in 1674, and continued to hold both offices.

*Course of Education and Discipline at this period.*—We find in an historical memoir written about this time under the eye of principal Middleton, a pretty distinct account of the manner in which the education and discipline of the college were then conducted. “ Every Michaelmas (says the writer) the masters “ convene, after the ending of the ten weeks vacation, “ and a program is affixed on the college gates, inviting young scholars to come and dispute for a “ burse (which is their maintenance at the college). “ To these are prescribed exercises or themes to “ make,

" make ; then Latin authors in prose and verse to ex-  
 " pound ; and the first four (for so many bursaries are  
 " void at every commencement) who are reckoned to  
 " be the best scholars are preferred. In October the  
 " students begin to convene. They wear a red or  
 " scarlet gown with hanging sleeves ; but those who  
 " are bursars, a black gown with a girdle. Their  
 " time of continuance at the university is four years.  
 " They are ranked into four classes. To those of the  
 " first class is taught the Greek language. The stu-  
 " dents of the second class learn logic and metaphy-  
 " sics. Those of the third class (who at the years'  
 " end are bachelors of arts), learn ethics and general  
 " physics. The fourth and highest class completes  
 " their course with special physics and mathematics.  
 " The time of the commencement of master of arts is  
 " in July. Before the day appointed, those who are  
 " to receive the degree, publish their theses, inviting  
 " all learned men and scholars to come and dispute."

*Mortifications for Bursaries.*—In the year 1648, Sir  
 Thomas Burnett of Leys, baronet, mortified certain  
 lands for the support of bursars at King's College ;  
 and in 1679 Walter Ogilvy of Redhyth bequeathed  
 his whole estate for the same purpose, and for the  
 maintenance of scholars at the school of Fordyce.  
 These were the first considerable additions made to  
 the original number of bursars ; and similar donations  
 have since been frequent\*.

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King

\* The following is a list of the Donors of Bursaries :

Sir

*King William's grant of L.200, &c.*—King William having granted in the year 1695, the sum of L.200 per

Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys	1648
Walter Ogilvy of Redhyth	1679
Mr. Melvill	1678
Dr. Watt	1685
Mr. Fullarton	1692
Mr. Park	1692
Mr. Watson	1699
Dr. Adam	1700
Al. Falconer of Glenfarquhar	1724
Mr. Greig	1724
Dr. Fraser	1730
Mr. David Ogilvie	1723
The Laird of M'Intosh	1706
Lady Braco	1706
Dr. Moir	1783
Alexander Maclean of Coll	1791
Mrs. Udney Duff	1794
Rev. Mr. J. Grant	1797
Dr. Murray	1797
The Rev. Mr. Johnson	1803
Dr. Hugh Macleod of Glasgow	1806
The Rev. James Stuart	1810
The Rev. Robert Findlay	1811

In addition to the above, Dr. John Milne, a native of Aberdeen, and surgeon in the Honourable East India Company's service, instituted in 1800 a bursary for apprenticing a student of medicine, and has ever since had the satisfaction of seeing it applied to the encouragement of deserving young men.

The legacy by Dr. Hutton of Deptford for the endowment of bursaries, having been litigated by the heir at law, on the plea of his bequest falling under the mortmain act, his intentions in this respect have not been realized.



per annum, for the behoof of King's College, a considerable part of this sum was afterwards assigned as a salary to the professor of oriental languages: and the college was thereby relieved from the expence of the salary which had been provided for this office at the time of its first institution in 1674. His majesty at the same time assumed the right of patronage to the office to himself and successors.

*Attempt to found a Professorship of Mathematics.—*

But before many years had elapsed, the society thought proper (though with some prudent cautions) again to burden their funds with a similar salary, and almost of the same extent, for the establishment of a professor of mathematics in their seminary. The minutes of election, which took place in 1703, shew at once their good will to promote the interests of learning, and the scanty means with which they were furnished. It bears, that “ the meeting taking into their consideration how much it may be for the advancement of learning, and interest of the college, that mathematics should be taught therein, nominate, appoint, and empower Mr. Thomas Bower to profess and teach mathematics, both publicly and privately in said college: and for the encouragement of the said Mr. Thomas Bower, until a fitter and better fund be procured, do hereby promise and engage unanimously, to give and accommodate the said Mr. Thomas Bower in his diet at the college table, during the winter session of the said college, as also to pay him two hundred merks Scots out of the college

“ lege revenue; in case only that it appear, after  
 “ clearing the yearly procuration accounts, that the  
 “ balance can bear the same\*.

*Royal Visitation, 1716.*—Strong marks of disaffection to government were shewn by some of the masters of King’s College, in the time of the rebellion 1716; and a royal commission for visiting both colleges having been issued in July of that year, Dr. George Middleton, principal of King’s College, with three of the professors, were removed from their offices. Mr. Chalmers, minister of Kilwinning, succeeded as principal, by virtue of a royal presentation, accompanied with a commission to the magistrates of Aberdeen, and certain ministers in both towns, to grant him admission to that office. On the 22d November, 1717, he appeared at King’s College, accompanied by those commissioners—produced his presentation; and the foundation oath was administered to him by the sub-principal of the college.

*Low Condition of the College Revenue and Fabric, 1717.*—Next year, principal Chalmers was appointed to repair to London, and, in name of the society, “ to  
 “ represent

\* Dr. Bower, whose reputation for mathematical science stood very high, found interest to procure a royal patent or presentation to his office; and a salary was assigned him arising from a tax on ale and bear within the borough of Old Aberdeen. No provision could be more embarrassing and improper than this. Dr. Bower, after contending for some years with the difficulties of his situation, demitted his office, and withdrew to London.

“ represent to their gracious sovereign the low and  
 “ sinking condition of the college revenue, the ruinous  
 “ condition of the fabric thereof, and the mean sala-  
 “ ries of the masters, and supplicate his majesty’s  
 “ royal bounty\*.”

*Dr. Fraser’s Munificence to the College.*—No effectual relief was obtained by this application ; but the bounty of a very liberal private benefactor in some measure supplied the defect. Dr. James Fraser of Chelsea, the son of a clergyman in the county of Inverness, had acquired in various literary stations, a pretty considerable fortune ; and after making ample provision for his family, was induced, in the evening of life, to extend his bounty to the university in which he had received his education.

In the course of a few years he expended about L.1400 in repairing and furnishing the library, and in the construction of that commodious and not inelegant range of building which extends along the south side of the College Court. Dr. Fraser’s benefactions took place about the year 1725 ; and he himself died in 1731, at the age of 86.

### *Review*

\* Previous to the annexation of the bishops’ rents by act of parliament 1641, the earl of Sutherland and other noblemen, who were commissioned to enquire into the revenues of the colleges, reported that the proper yearly expences of the university and King’s College, exceeded their revenue by L.285 : 7 : 1. This deficiency seems to have been the motive for granting to the united colleges the bishops’ rents ; of which they were deprived by the rescinding acts of Charles II. above mentioned.

*Review of Plan of Discipline and Education, 1753.*—In the year 1753, the whole plan of discipline and education in King's College was brought under review for the purpose of improvement. A great number of statutes relative to these objects, since known by the name of "The New Regulations," were enacted by the college, and submitted to the examination of the public. In framing these regulations, the celebrated Dr. Reid's opinion and views respecting education, are supposed in general to have prevailed. It was determined that the session of college should be prolonged from five months to seven, beginning on the first Monday of October, and ending in May: that the students should all lodge within the college, in chambers provided for them at an easy rent; the college gates being locked at nine, and the chambers visited after that hour, by one of the professors in weekly rotation: that the students should all board at a common table kept within the college, at a regulated and very moderate rate, where one or more of the professors were to be constantly present: that the strictest punctuality should be observed by the students in their attendance at lectures, during the whole of the session: that less time than usual should be spent on the logic and metaphysics of the schools, and a great part of the second year be employed in acquiring the elements of natural history in all its branches: that the professors of Greek and humanity should open classes for the more advanced students, during the three last years of their course: that a museum of natural history should be fitted up, and furnished with specimens, for the instruction

struction of the students; and that a collection of instruments and machines relative to natural philosophy, and a chemical laboratory for exhibiting experiments in that science; should be provided with all convenient speed.—For some years the good effects of these regulations seemed very flattering, and the masters thought they might congratulate themselves upon “having  
 “under their care a set of the most regular and diligent students to be found any where in the king’s  
 “dominions\*.” But considerable difficulties by degrees occurred in conducting the economy of the public table. It was not found that lodging so many young men together within the walls of the college was attended with all the expected advantages. The number of students diminished apace: some were disgusted with the strict discipline and regular attendance required: many could not support the expence of the prolonged session: it had been thought proper in order to enable the bursars to defray this increased expence, that the small bursaries in the gift of the college should be united, and two of them conferred on the same bursar: doubts began to be entertained concerning the legality of this proceeding: the bursaries were therefore separated again: the length of the session was (reluctantly on the part of the college) reduced to its former period of five months, and the students left at liberty to lodge and board in the town or within the college, as they might chuse; but all the  
 other

\* Printed memorial to lord Findlater, chancellor, relative to the union 1755.

other regulations enacted by the statutes in 1753, relative to studies, discipline, and attendance, continue still in force, with a salutary influence.

#### PRESSENT STATE.

*Revenue.*—It has been already mentioned that the revenue of the university was originally set apart for the support of forty-two persons, of whom twenty-one were in priest's orders. These are now reduced to twenty-three, in consequence of the change in religion, and deficiency of funds. Since the time of king James VI. no additional provision has been made, either by public grants or private donations, for the founded members of this literary seminary, except L.93: 6: 8 sterling, included in king William's mortification of the bishops' rents; and L.91: 8s. sterling, granted by queen Anne, and hitherto continued by her royal successors.—Of two of the parishes united to the university, the tithes have been long since exhausted in providing legal stipends for their ministers; more than one half of a third parish is overblown with sand; and no less than three additional stipends have been brought upon the other tithes belonging to the university, by new erections of parishes; so that the whole revenue for the support of the buildings, the sustenance of the principal and seven professors; thirteen bursars in arts; a provisor and two servants; all the public and necessary annual expences of the college, and stipends for eight ministers, consists only of the tithes of six parishes and a half; about L.63 from feu duties and annuities; L.184: 14: 8 from royal bounties since the revolution,

revolution, and the interest of the fund arising from the sale of superiorities and patronages. Of these funds too, the tithes (originally the most considerable branch) are much exhausted, in consequence of the augmentations lately awarded by the court of teinds, to the ministers of those parishes, whereof the college are titulars of the tithes ; insomuch that all now remaining of them to the college is L.340 sterling, and 193 bolls of victual ; but which is still liable to future augmentations of ministers' stipends\*. The benefactions to the college have chiefly been given for providing new bursaries ; insomuch that the stock of these mortifications is at present worth L.16 or L.17,000 sterling. The rights of these mortifications are vested in the corporate body of the college, who are likewise patrons of most of them, but derive no benefit from them except the small honorium or fee to the teaching masters†.

*Greek Class.*—By the ancient practice of the university, the regents not only taught in rotation the several

\* Since the above account was drawn up, almost the whole of the college tythes being exhausted, his majesty has been graciously pleased to grant a compensation in lieu of them.

† Lesser donations for the purchase of books, philosophical apparatus, &c. have been made at different times : these it would be tedious to enumerate, though the names of the donors are carefully preserved ; but it would be ungrateful to omit the name of Dr. Murray of Philadelphia, who lately bequeathed a sum of money, burdened, however, with the support of his wife during her life, for the maintenance of a bursar, and of a lecturer in the college chapel.

ral branches of science, which constituted the philosophical course, but Greek also. It was not till about the beginning of the present century that this department was allotted, by a royal and parliamentary visitation, to a separate professor. As few of the students who now enter college, make any previous proficiency in Greek, their first year is generally devoted to the study of its elements; the professor meeting with the first or elementary class three hours every day during the session, Saturdays and Sundays excepted. It had once been customary to give a fourth hour daily for the benefit of more advanced students; but from various causes this practice fell into disuse. Within these few years, it has been revived under a different form: the bursars of the higher classes are required to attend a second lecture twice every week, during the whole of their course, and few of the other students fail to attend it. They are examined in the higher classics, which the professor reads and explains; making occasional remarks on the peculiarities of the language, and giving lectures on Grecian history and antiquities.

*Philosophical Course.*—Though Greek became the department of a separate professor about the beginning of this century; Philosophy, in its threefold division, as comprehending the sciences of quantity, of matter, and of mind, has continued to be taught by the same person during three successive sessions. This method has always had its zealous advocates; in the number of these was the late Dr. Reid, who had experience of  
both



both plans, having taught for many years in this university, and afterwards in that of Glasgow. It certainly possesses some advantages, especially when considered in its relation to the local circumstances of this university. In a village, where parents cannot have acquaintance or relations, to whom they may intrust the superintendence of their children's conduct, it seems necessary that the connection betwixt the professor and student should be more close and intimate than can be the case in the rapid rotation of annual classes. The teacher being acquainted with the abilities and literary attainments of his pupil, and the student accustomed to the method and arrangement of his teacher, they may each be enabled to pass over with advantage a larger extent of subject than could otherwise be accomplished in the same time. It seems to afford additional incitements to application and diligence. The student, conscious that his conduct is watched with an almost parental solicitude, is anxious to secure the approbation of one with whom he is more than transiently connected. The teacher considering himself as solely responsible for the progress and improvement of his pupil, is particularly interested in his attainments, zealous to convey important and useful instruction, and to fix solid and virtuous principles. Nevertheless, the college impressed with a sense of the importance and extent of the sciences, which thus alternately devolve on the same person, and considering that in the present state of knowledge it is not probable he can attain eminence in each, whatever his assiduity or talents may be, has, as a preparatory step towards  
d farther

farther improvement (if it shall be found such), resolved to fix for a time the mathematical class\*.

Though the method of teaching and arrangement of subjects adopted by each professor, must necessarily vary to a certain degree, yet that generally practised in this university seems well calculated to lead the minds of youth in a natural progression to the attainment of useful science. The professors in the philosophical department teach three hours every day of the week, except Saturday and Sunday; on Sunday they, as well as the professor of Greek, lecture one hour on some subject connected with natural theology.

*Semi Class.*—The second year of the academical course is employed in teaching the elements of the mathematical sciences.—The students are supposed to be previously acquainted with the art of computation as taught at our schools; they are now instructed in the theory of numbers and the foundation of the rules of arithmetic. Algebra, the elements of plane and solid geometry, trigonometry, mensuration of plane surfaces and solids, with spherics, are included in the business of this year. The professor gives occasional lectures on geology and the meteorological branches of natural history.

*Tertian Class.*—After a brief recapitulation of the subjects of the former year, the professor proceeds in the

\* Since 1799, the philosophical classes have each been taught by a separate professor, who continues permanent in his department.

the third year to dialling, conic sections, and fluxions : exercises in the last are continued through the remainder of the course. Experimental philosophy in its several branches, mechanics, hydrostatics, pneumatics, aerology, magnetism, electricity, &c. occupies the remaining part of the session.—The philosophical apparatus has lately been much improved by donations from alumni ; and by means of a considerable annual revenue now set apart for that purpose, promises to be soon placed upon the most respectable footing.

*Magistrand Class.*—The science of astronomy employs the beginning of the fourth year, and completes the physical part of the course. Under the term moral philosophy, which forms the principal part of the instruction of the fourth year, is comprehended every thing that relates to the abstract sciences, or the philosophy of mind ; particularly pneumatology, or an analysis of the mental faculties, whether of an intellectual or active nature ; natural theology ; ethics, or practical morality ; logic, including rhetoric, together with economics, jurisprudence, and politics. According to the ancient practice of this university, logic, and the abstract sciences, took precedence, in the order of the curriculum, of mathematics, and natural philosophy. It was then believed that the elements of the other sciences must be taught to disadvantage, while the student remained ignorant of the art of reasoning, and the rules of judging : but mankind are now fully convinced of the inefficiency of the syllogistic art, to guide the understanding in the discovery

of truth. The logic which can answer this end, must have for its ground-work, all arts and sciences, and be founded on an analysis and natural history of the intellectual faculties. Every illustration and maxim must be derived from these sources; and its rules can be understood no farther than the several sciences, which it reviews and criticises, are understood. Nor is a previous knowledge of its precepts necessary towards acquiring the elements of science. Man exercises his understanding before he is formally instructed in the rules of reasoning. Upon these accounts, logic, together with the other abstract sciences, seems more naturally to occupy the last than the first part of a philosophical course; and actuated by such considerations, about 40 years ago, the teachers at this university adopted the above mentioned arrangement of subjects.

*Humanity Class.*—During the whole of their academical course, the students attend, three hours every week, the professor of humanity, who reads and explains the higher classics.

*Session of College.*—The duration of the session of college has been for a considerable time past, five months, commencing on the first Monday of November. At first view this may appear rather a short period to allow of the prelections which have been mentioned; but it should be observed, that the professors teach three hours daily, without any vacation during the whole session.

*Theology.*

**Theology.**—The theological session commences about Christmas, and closes the second week of April. During its continuance, the professors of divinity in King's and Marischal Colleges, lecture alternately four days in the week; the same students attending both. By these means, during the four years in which the study of divinity is generally prosecuted, a pretty complete course of theology is gone through in the following order: The evidences of natural and revealed religion; scripture criticism; the system of theology; and ecclesiastical history; and the pastoral care.

**Oriental Languages.**—During the theological session, the students who attend the hall have also access to lectures in oriental languages. No honorarium or fee is paid by the students in the theological department. In the Greek and philosophical departments, the fee paid by the bursars, is from a guinea to a guinea and a half; the minimum paid by the free students is at present two guineas.

**Law.**—The suppression of the professorship of canon law has already been noticed: that of civil law still subsists; but the study of it not being prosecuted in this part of the country, no lectures have been given for a long time past in this branch of science.

**Medicine.**—Medicine has hitherto been a branch of education which the university have been anxious to promote; but from different causes it has not succeeded; chiefly owing to the detached situation of the

college, with other particular local disadvantages, and there being but one medical professor in the university. Several of the incumbents have made various attempts; and amongst others, the late Dr. John Gregory of Edinburgh, at that time professor of medicine in King's College, who with Dr. David Skene, physician in Aberdeen (an eminent anatomist), opened a class in the town of Aberdeen for teaching anatomy, physiology, and the practice of medicine; but they met with no success, and were obliged to relinquish the plan. A similar attempt was made in the year 1792, by Dr. Chalmers, which likewise failed. And at present, the several obstacles which then occurred, still exist.

*Hours of Teaching.*—The classes for Greek, natural and civil history, natural philosophy, moral philosophy, and logic, taught by the four regents, meet three hours each day from the 1st November to the beginning of April, excepting Tuesdays and Saturdays, when there is no afternoon meeting.

The two classes for mathematics meet one hour a day for each class, during the same period.

A popular course of natural philosophy is delivered every second year, consisting of three hours weekly for five months.

A course of chemistry is taught for about four months, and three lectures delivered weekly.

The session for divinity continues for about three months, during which two lectures are delivered to the students every week by each of the professors in King's and Marischal colleges.

*Degrees.*

**Degrees.**—The candidates for degrees in arts, if they have studied at this college, must, by express statutes, have regularly attended the curriculum or philosophy course, as well as have undergone a strict examination in its various branches. If they pass this examination with honour, they generally receive the degree publicly from the professor who has carried them through their course; when each delivers an oration either in Latin or English, upon some subject of a philosophical nature. The degree in arts is also granted to those who have studied at other universities, upon the certification of at least two respectable graduates of the same rank, that the candidate is in every respect well qualified for the honour. Degrees in law, medicine, and theology, are conferred upon the similar certification of respectable graduates of the same rank, or in consequence of examination by the promoters in those various faculties. They are also sometimes bestowed without regard to standing in any university, as a mark of respect upon men eminent in their profession, or distinguished by their literary talents.

**Library.**—The library to which all the students have ready access is a valuable collection of books in the various departments of literature. By means of the Stationers' Hall act, and the application of a considerable annual revenue, it is well supplied with modern publications. It is particularly well stocked with old and valuable works of science, having been enriched by the libraries of the founder, the Scougalls, father and son, and various other eminent literary characters.

*Museum.*

*Museum.*—A museum of natural history has been gradually furnished for the use of the students, with a pretty large assortment of specimens in mineralogy and zoology, many of them bestowed by private donors. There is also a collection under the name of a Museum of Antiquities, containing Greek and Roman coins, casts in sulphur from ancient gems, and some of the more valuable books of engravings, relative to this subject. A considerable addition was made to this collection, about the year 1790, by a donation of the coins and medals of the late reverend Dr. Cuming of Andover.

*Elocution, French, &c.*—The professors encourage the best masters for elocution, French, and other branches of education, not commonly reckoned academical, for the instruction of such students as may wish to apply to them.

*Discipline and Internal Economy.*—The students at this college since the period of its foundation have been distinguished into two classes: 1st, the bursars; 2d, the free scholars, who are known by the name of libertines. Of the bursars, thirteen were instituted by the founder; the rest derive their support from sums of money, or lands mortified at various periods by different donors for that purpose. Some of these donors have retained the right of presentation to these bursaries to themselves and heirs; others have vested it solely in the college. Those bursaries which are in the gift of the college, and which amount to about



50, are disposed of according to merit, ascertained by a comparative trial in various Latin exercises. This competition takes place at the commencement of each session, and provides annually for twelve or thirteen bursars, being a fourth part of the whole number. The number of students who attend the philosophical course is from 100 to 130; that of students of divinity from 50 to 70. The founded bursars were anciently distinguished from the libertines by wearing a black gown instead of a red; and were also obliged to stand porters at the college gate; but these marks of inferiority are now discontinued. The bursars have to discharge several public duties, with the exception of which, they are in every respect upon the same footing as the libertines. They are in their turns the censors in their respective classes, which office obliges them to mark those who are absent at the hours of teaching, or who are guilty of any other act of delinquency. A class of the more advanced among them assume in their turns the office of *public censor*; the duties of which are to mark the absentees from public prayers, and to take notice of the more public acts of delinquency. Every morning during the session there are public prayers previous to the hours of teaching, in the college chapel, at which all the students regularly attend. The duty of public prayers is taken for a week in succession by the regents, and professors of humanity; the person thus officiating is called *Hebdomader*, and is considered as the more special superintendant of the morals of the students during his continuance in office. In the same chapel, the students assemble on  
Sundays,

Sundays, and proceed to church, conducted by their respective professors; but there being no religious test required of students at their admission into the university, such as are not of the established church are permitted to attend any place of worship which their parents direct. There is also a weekly meeting in the same place for public discipline, exercised by the sub-principal and regents; on which occasion, the students of the higher classes deliver orations on various subjects. Formerly a very large proportion of the students lodged within the college, and ate at a public table, at which the bursars were all obliged to board, and the Hebdomader superintended; but the institution was found to be attended with so many inconveniences, that it has been for some time abolished. At present, though there are no restrictions upon the students, in regard to lodging, yet in general the more opulent live within the college, where a boarding house is kept for their accommodation. The rate of boarding at this house is L.6 per quarter; at various houses kept in the town, it is from L.3 to L.4 a quarter.

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THE above account comprehends a brief detail of every circumstance relative to this ancient seminary of learning, which the compilers of it have deemed worthy of public notice.

KING'S COLLEGE, }  
 7th Nov. 1798. }

*List*

*List of the Chancellors, Rectors, Principals, eminent Professors, and Alumni of the University.*

**CHANCELLORS.**

1. WILLIAM ELPHINSTON, the founder, 1482.
2. Bishop Alexander Gordon, 1516.
3. Bishop Gavin Dunbar, 1518.
4. Bishop William Stewart, 1532.
5. Bishop William Gordon, 1546.
6. Bishop David Cunningham.
7. Bishop Peter Blackburn.
8. Bishop Alexander Forbes.
9. Patrick Forbes of Corse, 1618.
10. Bishop Adam Ballenden.
11. George, marquis of Huntly, 1643.
12. Bishop David Mitchell, 1662.
13. Alexander Burnett, 1663.
14. Patrick Scougall, 1664.
15. George Halliburton, 1682.
16. The earl of Errol, 1700.
17. The earl of Errol, son of the former, 1705.
18. Archibald, earl of Ilay, 1716.
19. The duke of Roxburgh elected. Declined.
20. James lord Deskfoord, afterwards earl of Findlater and Seafield, 1761.
21. Alexander, duke of Gordon, 1793.

**RECTORS.**

1. ANDREW LIELL, 1498.
2. William Strathachin, 1499.

3. Alexander Cullan, 1506.
4. Alexander Galloway, 1516 and 1521.
5. Gilbert Strathachin, 1531.
6. Alexander Spittal, 1537.
7. Alexander Hay, 1559.
8. Jacobus Strathachan, de Behelvie, 1542.
9. Alexander Gallaway, 1549.
10. Nicolas Hay, 1592.
11. John Strauchane, 1602, 1605, 1609, 1610, 1613, 1619.
12. John Leitch, 1619.
13. Joannes Strauchanus. Uncertain when in office.
14. James Sandilands, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1630, 1631.
15. Dr. John Forbes of Corse, 1634.
16. Dr. William Guild, 1635, 1639—1644.
17. Dr. Alexander Scroggie, 1636.
18. Dr. Arthur Johnston, 1637.
19. Dr. Alexander Ross, 1638.
20. Mr. David Lindsay, 1645, 1647, 1648.
21. Mr. William Scroggie, 1663—1665, and 1674.
22. Mr. John Menzies, 1667 and 1677.
23. Mr. Robert Reynolds, 1669.
24. Mr. George Nicholson, 1672 and 1673.
25. Mr. James Scougall, 1684.
26. Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, 1698.
27. Mr. Archibald Forbes of Putachie, 1708.
28. Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, 1709, 1710.
29. John Farquharson, Esq. of Invercauld, 1711.
30. Arthur Forbes of Echt, Esq. 1718—1722, 1724, 1726.

31. John Paton of Grandhome, Esq. 1728, 1730, 1732, 1733.

32. George Middleton of Seaton, Esq. 1762—1767.

33. Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, 1786.

34. Alexander Burnett, of Kemnay, Esq. 1787—1795.

35. Sir John Macpherson, Bart. 1795—1797.

#### PRINCIPALS.

1. HECTOR BOETH or BOYES.
2. Mr. William Hay.
3. Mr. John Bisset.
4. Mr. Alexander Anderson.
5. Mr. Alexander Arbuthnot.
6. Mr. Walter Stewart.
7. Mr. David Rait.
8. Dr. William Leslie.
9. Dr. William Guild.
10. Mr. John Row.
11. Mr. William Rait.
12. Mr. Alexander Middleton.
13. Dr. George Middleton.
14. Mr. George Chalmers.
15. Dr. John Chalmers.

#### EMINENT PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI.

JOHN VAUS, first grammarian in the university, who subscribes the second foundation, 1531. His Latin grammar published at Paris, 1522, is well known.

Mr. James Lawson, sub-principal, 1569. He was called to Edinburgh to succeed the famous John Knox.

Mr. Robert Maitland, regent in the college, and afterwards dean of Aberdeen. In consequence of the grant by James VI. of the deanery, he resigned it in favour of the college, 1579.

Mr. John Leslie, commissary of Aberdeen, afterwards bishop of Ross, and one of the senators of the college of justice, celebrated for his fidelity to the unfortunate queen Mary, and for his History of Scotland, was canonist in this university.

James Cheyne, who after going through a regular course of study at this university, taught philosophy at Paris in the college of St. Barbe ; from whence he was translated to Douay, and became L.L.D. and P.P. &c. In 1573, he published at Douay, a compend of Aristotle's philosophy. He also published at the same place two books on the terrestrial and celestial globes, a geographical description of the earth, and a commentary on Aristotle's metaphysics.

The famous Mr. Andrew Cant, grammarian or humanist, 1614.

Mr. William Douglas, professor of divinity in 1644. He printed the following treatises at Aberdeen : 1st, *Vindiciæ veritatis* ; 2d, *Vindiciæ Psalmodiæ Ecclesiasticæ divinæ* ; 3d, *Academiæ vindiciæ* ; and several other tracts.

Mr. George Nicolson, of Cluny and Kemnay, elected civilist in 1673 ; was afterwards one of the senators of the college of justice by the title of Lord Kemnay.

Mr.

Mr. Henry Scougall, son of Patrick Scougall, bishop of Aberdeen. After completing his studies at this university, he was immediately elected a regent, and afterwards professor of divinity. This amiable man, whose works are no less distinguished by their piety and learning, than by purity and elegance of style, was cut off at the early age of 28, when the promising hopes which had been formed of his talents and genius were just begun to be realized. He died, A. D. 1678.

Mr. James Scougall, civilist in 1684, afterwards one of the senators of the college of justice, by the title of Lord Whitehill.

The learned Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate, and lord of the Scots privy council, anno 1674, received the first part of his education in this university. To him his country is indebted for many valuable works, illustrative of its laws, customs, and government.

Mr. George Gordon of Haddo, an alumnus, and regent of the university in the year 1656. He was president of the Court of Session 1681; and in 1682 was appointed lord high chancellor of Scotland, and afterwards created earl of Aberdeen.

Dr. Thomas Bower, mentioned in the account. Being an eminent mathematician, he was employed by the Scots parliament about the time of the Union, in calculations relating to the Equivalent.

Mr. John Kerr, professor of Greek from 1719 to 1754, when he became professor of humanity in Edinburgh. He was an elegant classical scholar.

The Rev. Dr. John Macpherson, minister of Slate,

and author of the well known dissertations on the antiquities of Scotland, and several beautiful Latin poems, was educated in this university, 1724.

Dr. John Gregory, regent, and afterwards professor of medicine in this university, before he was translated to Edinburgh. His literary character and professional abilities are well known.

The celebrated Dr. Thomas Reid was many years professor of philosophy in this university before he was translated to Glasgow.

David Dalrymple, L.L. D. civilist in 1760, and afterwards one of the senators of the college of justice, by the title of Lord Westhall.

Dr. Alexander Gerard, professor of divinity, who was translated from the same chair in Marischal College in 1771, and whose writings are well known to the public. He died in 1795.

Dr. James Dunbar, an alumnus, and thirty years professor of philosophy in this university, author of "Essays on the history of mankind in rude and uncultivated ages," &c. died 1798.

In the present enumeration of eminent and learned men, particular notice should be taken of the late Mr. Thomas Gordon, an *alumnus*, who died A. D. 1797, having been professor of humanity, and latterly of philosophy, in this university, for no less a period than 61 years. He continued to fulfil the duties of his office till the time of his death, which happened in the 83d year of his age. His attainments in the sciences, and in polite literature; his abilities as a teacher; his suavity of manners and social disposition, are all well known



known, and will be long remembered. The compilers of the foregoing account embrace with pleasure this opportunity of paying their tribute of respect to his memory, and of acknowledging that they are indebted to him for a great part of the materials from which the account has been digested.

This section might be drawn out to a great length, especially if it were to include living characters of eminence. Many other men of literature who have been professors, or who have had their education in this university, will be found mentioned in professor John Kerr's *Donaides*, published at Edinburgh 1725.

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LIST OF THE PRESENT INCUMBENTS.

Roderick M'Leod, D. D.—*Principal*.

Gilbert Gerard, D. D.—*Divinity*.

Alexander Daune, L.L. D.—*Civil Law*.

Sir A. Bannerman, M. D.—*Medicine*.

William Jack, M. D.—*Sub-principal*. — *Moral Philosophy*.

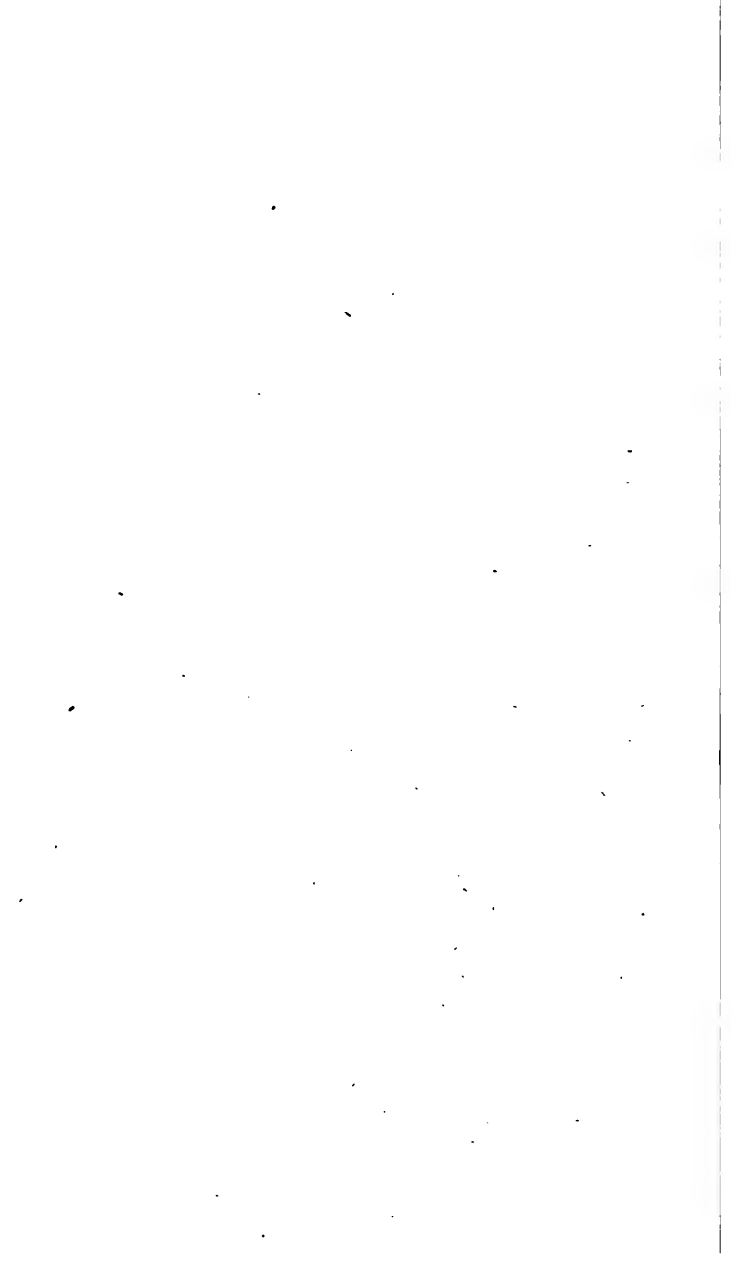
Mr. William Ogilvie — *Humanity*.

Mr. James Bentley.—*Oriental Languages*.

Hugh M'Pherson, M. D.—*Greek*.

Mr. William Duncan.—*Mathematics*.

Mr. William Paul.—*Natural Philosophy*.



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No. II.

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HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
AND  
PRESENT STATE  
OF THE  
MARISCHAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN.

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Anno 1798.

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FOUNDATION.

**T**HE Marischal College and University of Aberdeen was founded and endowed by George, earl Marischal of Scotland, by charter dated the 2d day of April, 1593. By this charter, the earl conveys to the principal and masters of his new college, and to any other members to be afterwards added to them, the houses, garden, church, &c. which belonged to the Franciscan or Grey friars, lying on the east side of the Broadgate of Aberdeen; also, the lands, crofts, tenements, and feu-duties formerly belonging to the Dominican or Black friars, and the Carmelites or White friars of Aberdeen, whose convents were respectively situated  
in

in the streets called the Schoolhill and Green, but demolished about the period of the reformation. The property of the Franciscans had been acquired by the town of Aberdeen; and their buildings being more entire and better situated than the others, were presented by the community to earl Marischal, as a proper scite for the college. The charter also contains a grant of the property of the Carmelites lying at Ber-vie, where they had a small convent, and of the revenues of the chapel of St. Mary at Cowie, both in Mearns: but these last mentioned were resumed by the son and successor of the founder.

*Original Members.*—The original members consisted of a principal, three regents or masters in philosophy and languages, six bursars, an œconomus, and cook.

*Duty of the Principal.*—The duty of the principal is declared to be to attend to the whole university, and to every one of its members, and to exercise, with regard to them, ordinary jurisdiction. He is required to be well informed in the Holy Scriptures, in order to qualify him for opening the mysteries of religion, and the hidden treasures of the word of God; to be well skilled in the languages, especially the Hebrew and Syriac, which were to be taught by him once every week. He is appointed to explain the sacred writings one hour every Monday; to illustrate from the Greek the physiology of Aristotle, beginning where the third or highest regent had left off, to which was to be added a short explication of anatomy; to teach the principles

ciples of geography, chronology, and astronomy, as also the Hebrew grammar, together with some practical application of the rules ; to confer the degree of master of arts on those students, who, after passing through the usual course of four years, should be found deserving of that distinction ; and to superintend the public discipline of the college. He is likewise in the charter, required, together with the chancellor, rector, and dean of faculty, to prescribe the authors to be explained to the students, in the languages in which they originally wrote.

*Duty of the Regents.*—The regent next to the principal was to teach the elements of arithmetic and geometry ; explain from the Greek the ethics and politics of Aristotle, with the books of *Cicero de officiis* ; and to conclude the course with Aristotle's physics. The duty of the third in order was, to instruct the students in logic, and exemplify his precepts by reading the best Greek and Latin authors ; also, to exercise them frequently in composing and declaiming in both languages. The employment of the fourth was, to teach the elements of Greek, along with reading some of the easiest authors, both in that and the Latin tongue ; to prescribe exercises for composition in those languages ; and to finish with a short compend of logic.

*Other Duties.*—The principal and regents, along with the bursars, are required to eat and sleep *intra septa Academiae*, where none of their wives or maid-servants are to be admitted. The students are appointed to convene,

convene, along with their masters in the several schools, at six in the morning, from the 1st of October, when the session was to commence ; to speak only Latin or Greek in public conversation ; to wear gowns ; to carry no arms or offensive weapons ; to obey the laws enacted by the faculty ; and for transgressions, to suffer expulsion, and pecuniary or corporal punishment.

*Superior Officers.*—The college is subjected by this charter to the authority of a chancellor, rector, and dean of faculty, who are appointed to hold a visitation three times in the year, for the correction of abuses : and these officers are declared to have the same powers, privileges, and jurisdiction, with those of St. Andrews, Glasgow, or any other university. The rector is to be chosen by all the *sapienti* of the university, divided into four nations, those of Mar, Buchan, Moray, and Angus. These are required to elect four procurators or representatives, and these to elect the rector and four assessors. The dean of faculty is to be chosen in the same *comitia*, or assembly of the whole university, but by the chancellor, rector, principal, professors, and minister of New Aberdeen. It is requisite that the principal and minister of New Aberdeen should always be present.

*Confirmations of the Foundation.*—In the succeeding General Assembly of the church, which met at Dundee on the 6th of April, in the same year 1593, the new institution was approved of, by an act in the following terms : “ The Generall Assemblie of the Kirk  
“ having

" having employit certane of the godlie and best  
 " learned brether of thair number to the sighting and  
 " considering of this fundatiounne and erectione, fol-  
 " lowing their judgement and approbatioun thairof,  
 " after reasoning had in the matter, hee given and  
 " gives thair consent and approbatioun thairto, and  
 " approves and affirms the same in all the heidis  
 " thairof, after the tenour and forme of the samen."

The subsequent confirmation by parliament runs in  
 these words: " In the current Parliament holden at  
 " Edinburgh, within the Tolbuith thairof, upon the  
 " twenty-first day of July, the yeir of God one thou-  
 " sand five hundred fourscore threttene yeirs. Our  
 " soveraine Lord and estaitis of this present Parlia-  
 " ment, understanding that George Erle Marischal,  
 " Lord Keith, &c. has laitlie foundit and erectit ane  
 " College within the burgh of New-Aberdeen, &c. :  
 " Thairfor his Hienes and estaitis foresaidis, ratifies,  
 " approvis, and confirms the said fundatiounne and  
 " erectione, with all the clauses, articles, heidis, and  
 " conditionis thairin content; and farther givis and  
 " disponis thairto, all freedomes, franchises, liberties,  
 " free privilegis and jurisdiction, that to anie free  
 " college within this realme be law and practice is  
 " knawin to appertene, &c. &c." Another act of  
 parliament, passed after the Restoration, in 1661, con-  
 firms the foundation and privileges of the new universi-  
 ty, almost in the same words.

*Other Professorships founded.*—In consequence of the  
 provision made for that purpose by the original char-  
 ter,

ter, several new professorships were afterwards added, viz. a fourth regent, who, by the commission of parliament in 1700, for visiting schools and colleges, was appointed to be fixed professor of Greek. A professorship of mathematics was founded in 1613 by Dr. Duncan Liddell, a native of Aberdeen, and eminent scholar, who had been professor of medicine and mathematics in the university of Helmstadt. A professorship of divinity, founded in 1616, by Mr. Patrick Copland, minister of Norton in Northamptonshire. A professorship in medicine, by the earl Marischal, in 1700. A professorship of oriental languages, by Mr. Gilbert Ramsay, rector of Christ Church, in the island of Barbadoes, in 1723. And lately, in 1793, a professorship in chemistry, by Mrs. Blackwell, widow of Dr. Thomas Blackwell, formerly principal of the university.

A few years since, Sir William Fordyce, physician in London, also endowed a lectureship on subjects tending to improve the agriculture and manufactures of Scotland; but the salary being liferented by one of his relations, it has not as yet been carried into effect. The beforementioned Mrs. Blackwell also appointed a premium of L.10 sterling, to be annually bestowed on the person who should compose and deliver in the English language, the best discourse upon a given literary subject; the first five being prescribed by herself, and the succeeding ones to be proposed by the university. This has accordingly taken place for these two years, and will be continued regularly hereafter. The last year's prize being adjudged to Mr. William Duncan, one of the masters of the grammar school of  
Aberdeen,



Aberdeen, and that for the current year to the Rev. George Skene Keith, D. D. minister of the gospel at Keith-hall.

*Bursaries.*—In 1644, Sir Thomas Crombie of Kemnay, made a donation to the magistrates and town-council of Aberdeen, as trustees and patrons of certain lands in the neighbourhood, as an augmentation to the salaries of the professors, and a provision for eight bursars in the university, and also for a minister of the college, or Grey friars kirk. This is supposed to have been originally a weekly lectureship in theology, chiefly intended for the benefit of the students, as that church was never a parochial one, but along with the other buildings of the Grey friars, was conveyed by lord Marischal's charter to the college. This provision, the town-council, who are now patrons of both offices, seem from the beginning to have joined to Mr. Copland's appointment for a professor of divinity, so that hitherto they have been always occupied by one person. Various other mortifications, or pious donations, for the education of bursars, have been made from time to time. In the year 1711, Dr. Gilbert Burnett, bishop of Salisbury, by his last will, bequeathed the sum of 20,000 merks, as a fund for the education of four bursars in philosophy, and two in divinity, in this university, "*in remembrance of my education there,*" as he expresses it; the patronage to belong to the family of Burnett of Leys, of which he was descended. Four bursaries in philosophy, of L.15 sterling each, and four in divinity, of L.25 sterling each, were also endowed

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dowed by Mr. Gilbert Ramsay, formerly mentioned: the patronage of which is vested in the family of Ramsay of Balmain. Besides the above, there are four in philosophy, left by Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum, under the patronage of that family; four by John Turner, Esq. of Dantzick; six by Dr. Duncan Liddel; and of late, two, by a gentleman of the name of Lorimer; and one by Dr. Ruddiman of Madras, with various others, amounting in all to between sixty and seventy in philosophy, from fifty merks in value to L.8 or L.9, together with eight or ten in divinity. Many of the smaller bursaries are, however, in the way of being increased: some of them by the rise of the value of the lands in which they were vested; and others, by being allowed to remain vacant for some time, the interest being yearly added to the capital. Of these philosophy bursaries, such as are in the gift of private patrons, are disposed of by them at pleasure; while those under the patronage of the town and college, between forty and fifty, are bestowed by annual competition about the end of October, upon the most deserving candidates, and as they continue for four years, ten or twelve become vacant every session. There are also two bursaries of L.12 sterling each, for the education of students in the higher parts of mathematics, founded by John Gray, Esq. of London, in 1768; one of which is disposed of every year, by comparative trial, among such students as have attended the two first mathematical classes.

*Union of the two Universities.*—The King's and Marischal

rischal colleges of Aberdeen being distinct and separate universities, totally independent of each other, though scarcely a mile distant, it has often been proposed and attempted to unite them into one university, or into one college. After the abolition of episcopacy in Scotland, king Charles I. by a charter, dated the 8th November, 1641, makes a grant to both universities of the rents of the bishopric of Aberdeen, for augmenting the salaries of the masters and other purposes, and unites *both universities* into *one*, in all time coming to be called **THE CAROLINE UNIVERSITY**; with this provision, that both shall enjoy and exercise all their primitive powers, privileges, and particular jurisdiction, which they had held and exercised before the said union took place. The two colleges acquiesced in this union and erection, which was confirmed by an act of parliament of the same month and year. They accordingly enjoyed the conjunct possession of the bishop's rents for several years, and also of another donation afterwards granted by the protector Cromwell, in favour of the university of Aberdeen, and two colleges thereof. They chose a common rector by turns, not judging it necessary or expedient to elect any superior magistrate, and submitted to commissions of visitation under the great seal, addressed to the principals, professors, and masters of the university of Aberdeen. But Charles II. having restored episcopacy in Scotland in 1661, the alienated rents of the bishoprics were resumed, and at the same time the bishop of Aberdeen, now reinstated in his office, and chancellor, *ex dignitate*, of the old college, laying claim

to the same jurisdiction over the other, the principal and masters maintained the privilege reserved to them by the charter of union, and refused to submit to any chancellor not elected by themselves. From this period, therefore, the act of parliament, confirming the union of the two universities, being understood to be rescinded, along with the other acts of king Charles I. from the year 1637, the members of this university have elected and been governed by their own proper magistrate, and have had little public connexion or intercourse with that of Old Aberdeen.

*Other Schemes of Union.*—Several attempts, however, have since been made to unite the two seminaries, not only into *one university*, but into *one college*, particularly in 1747 ; but, from the opposition of some individuals of the one or the other, hitherto without success. Upon the 8th of November, 1754, after various meetings and consultations held for that purpose, all the members of both universities unanimously agreed to, and subscribed certain articles of union, and applied to the duke of Argyle, then at the head of affairs in Scotland, for his support and influence in rendering it effectual and permanent. By this agreement the number of professorships in the united college was limited to the number then existing in King's College, with the single addition of a professor of mathematics ; and of those offices, such as Greek, philosophy, medicine, &c. in which each college had a professor, the half was to be suppressed ; one of these professors either resigning in favour of his colleague, or teaching the  
the

the class alternately, until the death or resignation of one of them. The respective patrons of these double offices were to present by turns, and all the professors were to receive a considerable addition to their salaries out of those to be suppressed. The only remaining difficulty to be adjusted was, whether the *locus*, or seat of the united college should be in New or Old Aberdeen? the Marischal College, with the magistrates of Aberdeen, and other patrons, insisting on its being placed in that city; while the members of King's College strongly maintained a contrary opinion. This point being therefore at last referred to the decision of the earl of Finlater, he determined it in favour of New Aberdeen; but in consequence of fresh remonstrances and opposition on the part of King's College, the whole previous agreement fell to the ground, and the two colleges remained separate as before.

After the failure of this attempt, no other endeavour appears to have been used to effect an union until the year 1786, when the principal and professors of Marischal College, in conjunction with some of those of King's College, again projected a plan for uniting them into one, a measure which they judged would have been very much for the advantage of both, and of the greatest service to the education of youth over all the northern part of the kingdom. They also proposed to suppress a moiety of all those offices in which each college had a professor; but in place of sharing the salaries among the offices retained, they proposed employing them for the establishment of new professorships.

sorships, such as were wanting in both ; and by admitting of no sinecure places, to render the united college a complete school of education in law and medicine, as well as in all the other sciences. This scheme having been first suggested by the earl of Bute, at that time chancellor of Marischal College, was warmly patronized by many persons of rank, and communities, who were applied to on the occasion ; but after a great deal of argument and discussion on both sides, was at length frustrated by the opposition it met with from a majority of the members of King's College.

*Plan of Education.*—How long the system of education appointed by the foundation charter continued to be observed, is unknown ; alterations in it were no doubt enjoined by various commissions of visitation issued by parliament ; and Aristotle at length resigned his empire to Bacon and Newton. But although the professorship of Greek was fixed in 1700, it was not until about forty years ago, that the old practice of one professor carrying forward the same class for three years, and teaching the whole circle of the sciences, was relinquished. This appears the more extraordinary, when we find that so early as the reign of king James VI. new foundation charters, said to be composed by Buchanan, were given by that prince to more than one of our universities, in which is the following clause: "*Quatuor autem hos regentes nolumus, prout in regni nostri academiis olim mos fuit, novas professiones quotannis immutare, quo factum fuit, ut dum multa profiterentur, in paucis periti invenirentur;*"

“venirentur ; verum volumus in eadem professione se  
“exerceant, ut adolescentes qui gradatim ascendunt,  
“dignum suis studiis et ingeniis præceptorem reperire  
“queant.”

In the year 1755, a new order of teaching was adopted in this university, by the unanimous approbation of all the members ; an account of which was then printed for the information of the public. Of this arrangement and system of education, which has been successfully prosecuted ever since that period, with very little variation, the following is an abstract :

The order formerly observed in this college was that followed by most of the ancient philosophers, which was afterwards espoused by the scholastics, and generally adopted by all the universities in Europe. They began with logic, then proceeded to ontology, pneumatology, morals, politics, and, last of all, taught natural philosophy. The peripatetic philosophy, at least as far as it was espoused by the commentators and followers of Aristotle, was in a great measure made up of verbal subtleties, and theories, ill grounded, though ingeniously devised. These were supported by arguments moulded into an artificial form, the mechanism of which must first be understood, and it was laid open by the logic then in use. The chief business of that philosophy was to express opinions in hard and unintelligible terms ; the student needed a dictionary or nomenclature of the technical words, and authorized distinctions ; experiment was quite neglected ; science was to be reasoned out from general principles, either taken for granted, or deduced by comparison.

parison of general ideas, or founded on very narrow and inadequate observation. Ontology, which explained these terms and distinctions, and laid down these principles, was therefore introduced immediately after logic. By these two, the student was sufficiently prepared for the verbal, or at best ideal, inquiries of the other parts. But philosophy has since that time been happily reformed; and is become an image, not of human fancies and conceits, but of the reality of nature, and truth of things. The only basis of philosophy is now acknowledged to be an accurate and extensive history of nature, exhibiting an exact view of the various phenomena for which philosophy is to account, and on which it is to found its reasonings. This being the reformed state of philosophy, great inconveniences must be found in prosecuting the scholastic order of the sciences. The student must make a transition at once from words and languages to philosophy, without being previously introduced to the knowledge of facts, the sole foundation of, and preparation for it; he must be hurried at the first into the most abstruse, difficult, and subtle parts of it; he must be put upon examining the nature, foundation, and different kinds of evidence and reasoning, before he is acquainted with any specimens of these kinds, by which they may be illustrated; and in proportion as philosophy is more improved and more thoroughly reformed, such inconveniences must become more sensible. For these reasons, the professors of the Marischal College were induced to alter the hitherto received order of teaching philosophy; and after the most mature deliberation, they



they resolved that their students should, after being instructed in languages and classical learning, be made acquainted with the elements of history, natural and civil, of geography and chronology, accompanied with the elements of mathematics ; that they should then proceed to natural philosophy, and, last of all, to morals, politics, logic, and metaphysics. And if by adopting this order they avoid the inconveniences above mentioned, and make the sciences follow one another, according to the natural connection of their subjects, and the gradual openings of the human mind, may they not expect the approbation of the public, and better fruits of their labours in forming the minds of youth, so that they may be possessed of knowledge more real in itself, and more useful for the various purposes of human life? The order of the sciences here established, was pretty much observed by some of the ancient stoics, particularly Panætius and Possidonius ; and Epictetus also insinuates that he considers it as the proper method. In general, it agrees with the partitions of science laid down by lord Verulam, and perfectly suits the genius of his philosophy. It appears to be that in which the sciences will afford most light to one another, and in which they will have the most happy influence on life.

1. The first year, therefore, is employed in classical learning under the professor of Greek, whose business it is not only to teach that elegant language in which the sciences were first delivered, and which by retaining their original terms, and from being used by those great masters whose works are still the acknowledged standards

standards in them, must always be regarded as the foundation of learning ; but to open the minds of youth, by explaining antiquity ; by acquainting them with the lives and characters of the chief classic authors ; and by pointing out the uses and advantages of literature for the various purposes of human life. As it is well known that the Greek language is little taught at our grammar schools in this country, and that an accurate knowledge of the elementary part is of the greatest importance, the first part of the session is necessarily employed in teaching the grammar. The students then begin to read some of the easier parts of the Testament, Lucian's Dialogues, *Æsop's Fables*, and, towards the end, are introduced to Homer, and some of the other poets. Along with their reading, they are sometimes exercised in making translations of easy passages from the Greek, into Latin and English, in which the idioms of the several languages are compared and pointed out, and the scholar thereby acquires a more familiar acquaintance with the structure and peculiarities of each.

2. The subjects to which the attention of the students is principally directed in the next class, are history, civil and natural, along with Latin literature. The study of natural and civil history is judged to be a just intermediate step between the study of languages, and general reasonings concerning things. History conveys to a young mind instructions adapted to its faculties, which at the same time open and prepare it gradually for apprehending the conclusions of philosophy, that branch of science which can only be improved, in  
proportion

proportion as history is perfected. Our knowledge in the one and the other must keep pace, for history relates the phenomena, and philosophy explains and accounts for them. The study of history, therefore, particularly natural history, must be proper to precede that of philosophy, not only as it opens the mind, but also as it furnishes it with the requisite materials. As there are not separate appointments for these branches of education, the same professor lectures on history, and illustrates the classics at different hours. Impressed with a sense of the great importance of classical learning, he employs six meetings a week in illustrating the Latin classics. The students also continue to read Greek in the second class occasionally during the session. 1. In the classical department, the professor begins with a brief course of lectures and illustrations on ancient and modern versification, and points out those circumstances which distinguish the ancient verse from the modern. Of these discourses the students receive a printed Latin abridgment. While reading the Latin poets, the students are not only exercised in scanning, but also accustomed to read according to the quantity; a practice which is attended with the best consequences, and, if begun early, would wonderfully facilitate the composition of Latin verse. The Latin authors also read in the second class are Virgil, Homer, Juvenal, Cicero, and occasionally Tacitus. 2. As an introduction to civil history, a view is given of chronology and geography. Particular attention is paid to the revolutions of Greece and Rome, the Greek and Roman antiquities, and the progress of literature, philosophy;

philosophy, and the fine arts among the ancients. 3. Natural history comes next in order. This subject is comprehended under six heads : viz. meteorology, hydrology, geology, mineralogy, vegetation, zoology : the last whereof is introduced by a brief view of comparative anatomy and physiology : the students receive a syllabus of the whole. At the same time, the students in this class attend the professor of mathematics, for the elementary parts, as the knowledge of the mathematical sciences is an absolutely necessary key to the philosophy of bodies.

3. As material objects are the most familiar to young minds, and experiments and reasonings concerning them are most level to their capacities, the students in the third year of their course, enter on the study of natural and experimental philosophy, and are instructed in its several branches ; viz. mechanics, hydrostatics, pneumatics, optics, astronomy, magnetism, electricity, and any others which new discoveries have added to the parts already cultivated. At the same time they continue their application to mathematics, so as they may go hand in hand with their studies in the different objects of natural philosophy.

4. In the last year of the philosophy course are taught, 1. Pneumatology, or the natural philosophy of spirit, including the doctrine of the nature, faculties, and states of the human mind ; also natural theology. 2. Moral philosophy, containing ethics, jurisprudence, and politics ; the study of these being accompanied with the perusal of some of the best of the ancient moralists. 3. Logic, or the laws and rules of inventing, proving,

proving, retaining, and communicating knowledge. And lastly, Metaphysics and Rhetoric. Dr. Beattie's *Elements of Moral Science* has been used as the text-book in this class for several years.

The professor of mathematics, during the first year the students are under his care, explains to them the principles of arithmetic, teaches the first six books of Euclid's *elements of geometry*, first principles of algebra, plane trigonometry, practical geometry in all its branches, principles of geography, and use of the globes. The second year, algebra, with its application to various kinds of calculation, elements of solid geometry, principles of perspective, navigation, spherical geometry, dialling, conic sections. The third year he teaches the higher parts of algebra, genesis and properties of higher curves, methods of indivisibles, prime and ultimate ratios, &c. method of fluxions, direct and inverse, higher parts of astronomy, with the detail of astronomical calculation. The instruments connected with the different branches, of which the university has a considerable number of the best construction, are exhibited, and their adjustments and uses explained. In every part of the course, the application of the principles to the practical arts of life is pointed out, and illustrated by examples.

*Other Particulars of College Economy, &c* — The three professors of philosophy and the professor of Greek attend their students three hours a day, and the professor of mathematics, at least one hour for each class, during the whole session of college, which commences

on the 1st day of November, and ends in April. The fees paid to the professors, and which have not been raised for many years, are for the lowest bursars twenty merks, and for the higher, in proportion to the amount of their bursaries. The others, called free students, pay an honorarium of at least one guinea and a half, but more frequently two or three guineas. None of the students reside in the college, but are boarded and lodged in houses kept for that purpose, or with their friends. The number of students in philosophy varies from 120 to 140, of whom ten or fifteen are generally from England or the West Indies. Their conduct is as carefully attended to as possible; and every Friday, in the public school, the delinquents, whose names are marked in the catalogue, for the transgressions of the week preceding, are called out by the principal in presence of the professors, and punished by censure or fine, according to the fault. At this meeting also, the students, in the three higher classes, deliver Latin discourses upon subjects prescribed to them by their respective masters for that purpose. They all wear long scarlet gowns, with broad velvet collars, of the same form with those of the clergy of the church of Scotland; attend prayers, which are pronounced by each of the four regents in his turn, to whom this duty belongs, every morning at eight in the public school; and some weeks before the conclusion of the session, undergo a solemn examination in presence of the principal, professors, and all who may chuse to attend.

The expence of living here was formerly extremely low, all the common necessities of life being very plentiful

plentiful and cheap. They are now considerably raised, yet young men of the best families are still boarded and lodged at the rate of less than thirty pounds a year; and the other expences for clothes, books, and education, need not exceed twenty pounds more. The poorer sort do not expend one half of that sum. If the student remains only during our short session of five months, his whole expence on the highest calculation may be amply defrayed for thirty pounds, and the lower ranks in proportion. Some private families, indeed, admit boarders at a much higher rate. The present principal boards and lodges in his house, and superintends the education of a few young gentlemen, for which he receives one hundred pounds per annum. A considerable number of students remain in town during the vacation, when they are attended by private tutors, and study drawing, music, modern languages, and other useful or fashionable accomplishments, for which there are many very well qualified teachers.

*Divinity, and Oriental Languages.*—There are generally from sixty to eighty students in divinity, who attend the lectures of the professors of King's and Marischal Colleges. Of this number, however, seldom more than one-third gives regular attendance. The remainder, consisting chiefly of students engaged in teaching parochial schools in the country, or as tutors in gentlemen's families, hear only a few lectures, and deliver a certain number of exercises in each of the divinity halls. Of these, as before mentioned,

eight or ten enjoy bursaries of ten pounds, and upwards, to twenty-five pounds each. The students have a small library in this college, purchased chiefly by annual contributions among themselves, and tolerably well furnished with books suited to their studies. Each of the professors in divinity gives two lectures every week on different days, so that the students may enjoy the instructions of both. These they endeavour to arrange in such a manner, that they may form together a regular course of theology. The general subjects discussed in order are, the grand principles of natural religion; the Christian evidences; scripture criticism; systematic and controversial divinity; the history of the principal controversies which have agitated the Christian church; and the pastoral care. The whole course is intended to be finished in four or five sessions.

As by the appointment of the church of Scotland, every student of divinity must deliver, during the course of his theological studies, a certain number of exercises prescribed by the professors, whose instructions he attends; these exercises are exhibited every week during the theological session in the halls of King's and Marischal Colleges; in the former, after the professor has finished his lecture; and in the latter, every Saturday in the forenoon. When the exercise is delivered, the professor first asks the opinions of the students present, and then proceeds to criticise the performance, and to point out the faults he has discovered in sentiment, expression, composition, and delivery. The exercises required of every student are,

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1st, A lecture, or popular explanation of some passage of scripture. 2d, A homily, or sermon. 3d, An exercise and addition, that is, a critical analysis of some portion of the Greek Testament, together with an illustration of the doctrine it may contain. 4th, An exegesis, or Latin discourse on some theological question. The divinity session commences, in King's and Marischal Colleges, about the end of December, and concludes in the beginning of April. The detriment arising to the education of candidates for the sacred ministry, from the irregular attendance of so many students, has long been felt by the professors of both colleges. In order to remedy this defect, as far as lay in their power, the synod of Aberdeen, at the instance of both professors of divinity, lately addressed to all the students within their bounds, an admonition on this subject, and appointed it to be read by the professors in the halls. This has been already attended with beneficial consequences. At the same time, the synod drew up an overture on the same subject, which they transmitted to the General Assembly of the church, under the full conviction that some effectual remedy to the abuse to which it related, was desirable and necessary. This overture has accordingly been transmitted by the assembly to presbyteries for their opinion.

The rules of the church also require, that students in divinity should apply to the study of the Hebrew language; but this class having formerly been taught in a very superficial manner, was for many years little attended to. The present professor, how-

ever, being desirous of restoring a branch of education so useful, and even necessary, for the clergy, the two professors of divinity lately gave in to the synod of Aberdeen a representation on the subject. The synod accordingly, earnestly recommended to all the students of divinity under their inspection, a more diligent application to that study, and particularly enjoined those holding bursaries, to give a strict and regular attendance on the Hebrew classes, during the whole period of their enjoying them. This recommendation, it is hoped, will be attended with the desired effect. The class for Hebrew in this university, now meets twice a day for five days in the week, during the whole period of the session of divinity. Besides teaching the elements of the language, and reading the Old Testament with his pupils, the professor delivers discourses on textual criticism, Jewish antiquities, and other subjects connected with the study of the Hebrew scriptures. He also teaches the Arabic and Persic languages, in which several of his scholars have already made considerable proficiency.

*Medicine.*—The office of professor of medicine was formerly considered almost as a sinecure, no lectures being read, or any duty being performed, unless giving attendance on such of the students as were sick, or occasionally dissecting such subjects as could be procured. The present professor, however, who has been but lately admitted, proposes, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, to deliver regular courses of lectures on anatomy, and other branches  
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of medicine. He is one of the physicians and surgeons to the infirmary, where there is a great deal of practice to be observed both in surgery and medicine, and, as well as the professor of chemistry, and several other physicians, receives a few pupils, who are instructed in the various departments of these arts. The number of students in medicine amounts to about thirty, who besides receiving the instructions, and seeing the private practice of the masters, attend daily the infirmary, and frequently enjoy the benefit of public dissections. They have also formed among themselves a society, under the direction of their masters and some of the professors, from which they derive considerable advantage in the prosecution of their studies. Here the members are obliged in rotation, at a weekly meeting, to deliver discourses upon medical subjects, which at a subsequent meeting are submitted to general discussion, every member being required to deliver his opinion concerning them. They have likewise collected a very considerable number of books on medicine, and subjects connected with it, which are the property of the society. Along with these advantages, they farther enjoy that of attending the professor of chemistry, who gives a regular course of lectures on that subject, every year, during the session of college. The course, however, is by no means confined to medicine, particular attention being also paid to the application of chemistry for the purposes of agriculture, manufactures, and the arts. The same professor likewise gives a course of lectures on chemical pharmacy, after the conclusion of the other. The medical student too, has  
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an opportunity of attending a course of botany, taught every summer under the patronage of the college, by a gentleman who enjoys a small salary from the magistracy for that purpose.

With such previous education, these students generally resort to the university of Edinburgh, where they remain one or more years, according to their fortunes or other circumstances. From thence they frequently remove, without taking any degree, either into the army or navy, or to the British settlements abroad; and after some years practice apply to the college where they have been educated, for the degree of M. D. This they frequently obtain upon proper testimonials, their merit and former characters being perfectly known to the professors. Degrees in medicine are also sometimes conferred upon strangers; but, in these cases, the formal attestation of two well known and respectable graduates in medicine, are indispensibly requisite; and the fee, when any is received, is never less than sixteen pounds, which is divided between the public library and the professor of medicine. Many of these graduates have reflected the highest credit on their country, and some of them now enjoy the first honours and emoluments of the medical profession; and if, in a few instances, it may have been otherwise, the same is believed to have as frequently happened in most other universities, whether at home or abroad. Degrees in law and divinity are also conferred; for the first a fee is sometimes received for behoof of the library; but for the last, never.

*Patronage*

*Patronage of Offices and Salaries.*—The patronage of the offices of principal, of the four regents, and the professor of medicine, was vested in the family of Marischal, and fell to the crown after the rebellion in 1715, by the forfeiture of that family. At the same time, almost all the professors were ejected for their attachment to the unfortunate house of Stewart, having had the imprudence, along with many members of King's College, to avow their partiality for the Pretender, by a public address delivered to him at Fetteresso, even after the rebellion was understood to be suppressed, by the defeat of his party at Sheriffmuir.—The patronage of the professorship of oriental languages belongs to the family of Ramsay of Balmain; and those of divinity and mathematics to the magistrates and town council of Aberdeen; but the last has sometimes been bestowed, agreeably to the appointment of the founder, by solemn comparative trial among candidates convened by a public program; the professors of mathematics in all the other Scots universities being invited as judges. The office of professor of chemistry is under the patronage of the university.

The chief part of the salaries of the principal and regents arises from the rents of lands and feu duties in the vicinity of Aberdeen, formerly belonging to the Dominican and Carmelite friars. These were originally of so small value, that by the foundation charter, the salary of the principal was fixed at three chalders of bear, and one hundred merks in money; and those of the regents at twenty-four bolls of bear, and forty pounds Scots each. It has happened, however, from the

the rise in the value of lands, and especially from feuing out for building some crofts of land, in and adjoining to the town, that these small salaries have been gradually augmenting, and now amount to about fifty pounds sterling for each of the masters. To this is to be added a sum of about fifty pounds more, arising from Sir Thomas Crombie's mortification, which is equally divided among the principal and four regents.

In 1699, king William made a grant, which has been since continued, of three hundred pounds sterling per annum, payable out of the bishop's rents of Aberdeen and Moray; two-thirds whereof were assigned to the college of Old Aberdeen, to enable them to repair their ruinous buildings, and one-third to the Marischal College. Of this money, certain specified sums are appointed for the augmentation of salaries, and for establishing two bursaries in divinity; and the remainder, for the payment of debts, and other public purposes of the university. These bursars are chosen in the following mannner: Upon a vacancy, the principals and professors of both colleges meet together, and make up a list of three candidates, who have passed through their course of philosophy, and received the degree of A. M. at either college. This list is transmitted to the barons of exchequer, who nominate one of the three to be King's bursar in theology; and upon producing his presentation, he is admitted to the enjoyment of his bursary, which continues for four years, and is ten pounds per annum. The college also receives annually one-hundred and five pounds sterling, under the name of royal bounty, by virtue of a grant  
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from queen Ann, which has been since renewed at the commencement of every reign, payable out of the civil establishment of Scotland, and appointed to be applied towards augmenting the salaries of the professors. Yet, notwithstanding this allowance, and that from the bishop's rents, together with the rents of the original college property, and those arising from Sir Thomas Crombie's mortification, none of the salaries exceed eighty pounds per annum, excepting those of the principal and professor of mathematics, which are upwards of one hundred pounds. The precise amount of any of them cannot be exactly stated, being subject to small variations, arising from the high or low prices of grain, and other causes.

*College Buildings, &c.*—Very little now remains of the old Franciscan monastery, unless the church, of which the walls, with a fine Gothic window, are still entire. Some years since, it was shortened about twenty feet, a new aisle built for the accommodation of the students, and new roofed, at the expence of the town of Aberdeen. It being now their property, a minister is appointed to it by the magistrates and town council, but without any parochial duty. The monastery having become ruinous, the greater part of the present buildings of the college was constructed about 1676, and an additional wing in 1739; but having been ill designed, and erected at different times, they are neither regular, elegant, nor commodious. They contain a common school of 76 feet by 22; a public hall and library room of the same dimensions; a divinity

nity hall ; five other schools, or teaching rooms ; an apartment lately fitted up for a museum ; another for the apparatus in natural philosophy ; and lodgings for three of the professors. There are also, detached from the other buildings, a laboratory and teaching room for the use of the professor of chemistry, and dwelling houses for the two college servants.

In the public hall are a good many paintings, but few of any considerable merit. There are portraits of several sovereigns of the family of Stuart ; of the founder of the university ; of the late earl Marischal, and his brother, general Keith ; of the earl of Bute, lately chancellor of the university ; of bishop Burnett ; —together with one of Dr. Arthur Johnston, and several others, by Jameson.

*Library, Museum, &c.*—The library originally consisted of no greater collection than what belonged to the Franciscan friars, containing most of the schoolmen and monkish writers, and particularly a good number of the Latin fathers in vellum MSS. together with some few of the classics, Horace, Lucan, Martial, &c. also in MSS. It afterwards received a considerable addition from Dr. Duncan Liddell, of the ancient physicians and mathematicians, Greek, Latin, and Arab, and of the most eminent moderns who had written on these subjects in his own times. Its chief benefactor, however, was Mr. Thomas Reid, secretary for the Latin language to king James the Sixth. In his travels through the greater part of Europe, he purchased the best editions of all the classics, that were printed from the



the time of Aldus Manutius, until the year 1615, including the philosophers, lawyers, Greek and Latin fathers, with the works of the chief critics, the Scaligers, Casaubon, Lambinus, &c. who flourished during that period; also several curious MSS. and particularly an Hebrew Bible, of most beautiful writing, supposed by Kennicott to be the work of the 12th century. This entire collection he left to the Marischal College, together with a salary for a librarian of 600 merks per annum, under the management of the magistrates of Aberdeen, but which was afterwards reduced to £14 13s. 4d. sterling. It has since received considerable additions by the libraries of several private persons, particularly the Rev. Mr. Dunlop, Dr. Alexander Reid, Mr. Lorimer, and the Rev. Mr. Primatt, with other donations of curious and valuable books of drawings, antiquities, &c. from various noblemen and gentlemen connected with the university. Among others, are the ancient popish service book of the cathedral church of Salisbury, finely illuminated, left by bishop Burnett, with several other MSS., breviaries, missals, &c. full of miniature paintings, and other ornaments. In 1782, the earl of Bute, then chancellor, made a present to it of about 1400 volumes, chiefly on medicine, and subjects connected with it; and since that period, has also been received, the medical library of the late Sir William Fordyce of London, a native of Aberdeen, and alumnus of this college. The late Dr. Donaldson, professor of oriental languages, also bequeathed to it his collection of books in that department of literature.

In the charter chest are preserved some of the papal bulls and foundation charters belonging to the Fran-

ciscan, Dominican, and Carmelite monasteries, together with the ancient writings and title-deeds of the lands and feu-duties bestowed very liberally on some of these societies, from the beginning of the thirteenth century, down to the reformation. Some of these are curious, and serve to throw considerable light on the ancient state of this city and its neighbourhood. Here also is preserved an authentic instrument drawn up and subscribed by seven public notaries, containing an accurate description of the Regalia of Scotland, upon occasion of their being lodged in the castle of Edinburgh, at the union of the kingdoms, which was deposited at that time among the college archives, by the earl Marischal.

The museum contains a small, but increasing collection of specimens in the various departments of natural history, especially in mineralogy; also a good many serpents and other animal productions, preserved in spirits; together with a considerable number and variety of natural and artificial curiosities. Among other articles are an Egyptian mummy, in very bad preservation; a beautiful antique statue of Esculapius; the staff of office belonging to the earls Marischal of Scotland; and a set of casts of ancient gems selected from Tassie's vast collection. Here is also an elegant gold box, presented by the earl of Buchan to the university in 1769, inclosing a silver pen, for which a competition is annually held among the students of the Greek class, and the successful candidate rewarded by a present of a book, and a silver medal with his name inscribed on it, appended to the pen. There are likewise kept here, the dies and some copies of a gold medal, with a  
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suitable device appointed by the will of the late John Gray, Esq. of London, to be bestowed on such of his mathematical bursars as should discover an uncommon genius for these sciences, upon certification by the professor, that they have produced some invention or improvement therein, deserving of this mark of distinction. The premium has hitherto been only once conferred, viz. in 1795, in favour of Mr. James Skene, now in a medical department in the East Indies. The medal is of the weight of two ounces of gold. To these may be added the common seal of the university, bearing the arms of the family of Marischal, and of the city of Aberdeen, united: the crest, rather expressive of the vanity of the inventors, is a meridian sun, with the motto, "Luceo."

The apparatus for teaching natural philosophy, in mechanics, hydrostatics, pneumatics, optics, electricity; &c. is esteemed very complete, and perhaps equal to any in the united kingdom. Among other articles, it contains a large collection of models of the most useful machines in various arts and manufactures, of the best workmanship, and with the latest improvements. For this collection the college is indebted to a liberal grant, continued for several years, from the board of trustees for promoting fisheries and manufactures in Scotland. All the models, together with the greater part of the apparatus, have been executed by an artist of this city, under the direction of the present professor. By means of this extensive apparatus, he is enabled, besides his regular course of scientific lectures, to give occasionally a popular course of experimental philosophy, the chief object of which is, the

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practical application of this science to the arts, and the common purposes of life.

*Observatory.*—A small but commodious observatory was erected on the Castle-hill of Aberdeen in the year 1781, upon a spot of ground granted by the magistrates for that purpose, and finished and furnished with instruments by the benevolent assistance received from the earl of Bute, then chancellor of the university, but chiefly by contributions from the gentlemen of the town and neighbouring country. It consisted of two circular rooms, of about 12 feet diameter, having moveable roofs and apertures for the observations; to which was afterwards added a third apartment for the equatorial instrument and other apparatus. It was provided with the following instruments:

A transit telescope, of four feet focus, and three inches aperture; by Ramsden.

A moveable quadrant, of two feet radius, made by Macculloch, and divided with great accuracy, by Troughton.

A very superb equatorial instrument, with circles of eighteen inches diameter, originally made by Sisson; but afterwards divided anew, and an achromatic telescope, with refraction apparatus, added by Ramsden.

A double achromatic telescope, of four feet focus, and two and three fourth inches aperture, moving on a polar axis, and having a divided object glass micrometer; by Dollond.

A Newtonian reflecting telescope, of five feet focus, by Hearne: and a twelve inch Gregorian telescope, by Short.

A time keeper, with a Gridiron pendulum, by Mariott.

An assistant clock, for counting the minutes and seconds, by the stroke of a hammer upon bells; made by Gartly, Aberdeen: also, an alarm clock, barometer, thermometer, &c. The equatorial and transit instruments were presented by the earl of Bute. An astronomical clock, exhibiting various motions of the celestial bodies. Also, an orrery.

In the observatory, the construction and adjustments of the different instruments, the method of making observations, with the calculations and results deduced from them, were explained to the students. Here also a regular series of observations was kept for several years, of some of which, relating to the longitude and latitude of the observatory, the result is published by Dr. Mackay, by whom many of them were taken, in the 4th volume of the Edinburgh Philosophical Transactions.

The want of accommodation for an observer, and the distance of the observatory from the college, which was considerable, rendering a constant course of observations almost impracticable, only such as were of importance continued afterwards to be taken, until about two years since, when the situation being judged necessary to be included in the space of ground allotted for the building of barracks, and the very spot wanted for a powder magazine, it was of course demolished. From a proper representation, however, of these circumstances, by the earl of Mansfield, late chancellor of the university, a sum of money has been obtained from government, as an indemnification for the loss

sustained, and to enable the college to build an observatory in another place. With this money, a large apartment is now constructing over a part of the college buildings, which, from its commanding a more complete view of the horizon—from its contiguity, and other conveniences, is expected to answer the purposes of an observatory even better than the former. Its height above the level of the court is about sixty feet; but such is the position, extent, and solidity of the intersecting walls, that, excepting perhaps in the case of violent storms, when observations can seldom be taken in any situation, it is expected, that with proper precautions, the instruments will be as little liable to tremor as before. Here will be a room of about forty feet by eighteen, with three small cupolas, two of these being moveable for the quadrant and equatorial, and the third fixed for the transit instrument. Adjoining to this room is a small balcony, for taking observations of eclipses, &c. in the open air, with the telescope, and within hearing of the assistant clock. In this room will also be contained a collection of books on the mathematical sciences, purchased with a small fund appropriated to that peculiar purpose by Dr. Liddel, who endowed the mathematical professorship.

*Eminent Persons.*—Among the persons distinguished by superior rank or literary reputation, who have received their education at this university, or have held offices in it, may be mentioned the following names:

Mr. Thomas Reid, Latin secretary to king James the Sixth, who was before taken notice of, as having bequeathed

bequeathed to it his whole collection of books, and founded the office of librarian.

Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, an eminent scholar, who published the first accurate set of maps of this part of the kingdom, towards the middle of the last century.

Gilbertus Jacchæus, or Jack, M. D. who writes on physics and metaphysics, and died professor of philosophy in the university of Leyden, in 1628.

Dr. Patrick Dun, the pupil and friend of Dr. Liddel, who writes on medicine, in which he received a degree at Basil in 1607. He bequeathed very ample funds for the support of the grammar school of Aberdeen, and expended a considerable sum in repairing the college buildings, of which he was principal, and died in 1652.

Dr. William Johnston, of the family of Caskieben, who, after having taught philosophy in the university of Sedan, was the first person who occupied the mathematical chair in this university. Also his younger brother,

Dr. Arthur Johnston, author of the well known translation of the Psalms, and other elegant Latin poems. Having received the degree of M. D. at Padua in 1610, he afterwards settled in France, where he remained until about 1633, and then returning to his own country, was appointed physician to king Charles the First. He died at Oxford in 1641.

Dr. Gilbert Burnett, bishop of Salisbury, the well known author of many works, whose valuable donations to the college were formerly mentioned.

Dr. James Gregory, professor of mathematics in the  
university.

university of St. Andrews, and afterwards in that of Edinburgh, and inventor of the reflecting telescope, named from him the Gregorian.

Dr. Robert Morison, an eminent writer on botany, of which he was appointed regius professor in the university of Oxford.

Mr. James Gibbs, the architect, who gave the designs for many churches in London, and other public buildings, particularly for the Radcliffe library at Oxford, which is much admired.

Dr. John Arbuthnot, physician to queen Ann, the intimate friend of Pope and Swift, and author of several works.

Dr. James Mackenzie, physician in London, author of the History of Health, &c.

Mr. Colin Maclaurin, who held the office of professor of mathematics in this university, and afterwards removed to Edinburgh in 1727.

The late George earl Marischal of Scotland, whose estates were forfeited in 1715, and who died at Berlin in 1778, and his brother,

General Keith, field marischal in the service of Prussia, who was killed at the battle of Hochkirchen, in 1758.

To these ought to be added,

Dr. Thomas Blackwell, author of the Life of Homer, Court of Augustus, &c. Also,

Dr. George Campbell, lately deceased, whose writings are well known; both principals of the university.

Dr. James Beattie, late professor of moral philosophy, whose writings are also well known.

Mr.



Mr. James Hay Beattie; son of the former, professor of history and Latin literature in this university.

Another eminent literary character, Dr. Thomas Reid, late emeritus professor of philosophy in the university of Glasgow, also received his education here, where, being descended from Secretary Reid, formerly mentioned, he enjoyed the office of librarian for several years.

Dr. Alexander Gerard, author of *Essays on Taste, Genius, &c.* who successively held the offices of professor of moral philosophy and divinity in this university. Also,

Mr. James Beattie, late professor of natural history, &c.

*Present Members of the University.*—The right honourable William Lord Auckland, chancellor.

The Right Hon. Sir William Grant, Bart. lord rector.

Alexander Forbes Irvine, Esq. of Schivas, advocate, dean of faculty.

James Hadden, Esq. the Rev. John Rose, minister of Udny, Dr. William Ruddiman of London, and Dr. Calder of Paddington, assessors to the lord rector.

The Rev. Dr. William Laurence Brown, principal, and professor of divinity.

Mr. George Glennie, professor of moral philosophy.

Mr. Patrick Copland, professor of mathematics.

Dr. Robert Hamilton, professor of natural philosophy.

Mr. John Stuart, professor of Greek.

Dr. James Davidson, professor of natural and civil history.

Dr. William Livingston, professor of medicine.

Dr.

**Dr. George French, professor of chemistry. And,  
Mr. James Kidd, professor of oriental languages.**

*Improvements suggested.*—Of the improvements still wanting to render the course of education more complete in this university, the public will in some measure be enabled to judge from the foregoing account of it; the following, however, are briefly suggested for their consideration.

The establishment of some new professorships is obviously necessary for this purpose, particularly one for humanity or the Latin language, unless such an arrangement could be adopted, as would enable the present professors of language to extend their instructions to the other classes, as well as those immediately under their care. This appears the more necessary, as it is suspected that the knowledge of Latin is rather on the decline over all this part of the united kingdom; which may be imputed in part to children being sent to school, and thence to the university at too early an age; but chiefly to the present situation of the parochial schools. Here the emoluments are so very inadequate to the decent support of a public teacher, that they are chiefly occupied by boys at college, or others still worse qualified; and in such circumstances, no one will chuse to remain longer than he can find another employment more advantageous.

In the medical department there are already two professors; but to establish any tolerable school of physic, several others would be necessary. A professor of astronomy would also make an useful addition to the present number, as the various subjects taught  
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by the professors of mathematics and natural philosophy leave them but very little leisure for teaching this agreeable and useful science. A ready furnished observatory also affords great encouragement for such an establishment, where the same person might be fully employed in making and recording a regular series of observations. It would likewise be of very great service to the course of education, that a separate professorship was established for the study of rhetoric and the belles lettres; and in the theological department, another for ecclesiastical history.

An addition to the buildings of the college would also be very useful, the present consisting of too few apartments, and being otherwise inconvenient. For this purpose the funds of the college are totally inadequate, being scarcely sufficient to answer the expence of necessary repairs. The annual sum permitted to be appropriated to the use of the library is very small, and now that the price of books is so much increased, will by no means admit of the purchase of many valuable modern works. Nor has the Marischal College even the full benefit arising from the books entered in Stationers' hall, as only one copy being sent to Aberdeen, the right of keeping them has been adjudged to the senior university, though they are declared to be the joint property of both. For the chemical class likewise, there being no public fund for supplying utensils and instruments, an apparatus is wanted, more complete and on a larger scale than the one presently in use, furnished at the private expence of the professor.

Another improvement, which has been frequently proposed,

proposed, but from prejudice, the result of ancient custom, never carried into effect, is the prolongation of the session of college. At present, it continues only for five months, which, besides being attended with other inconveniences, obliges the professors to meet with the students no fewer than three times a day, and to conduct and conclude their courses more rapidly than would be necessary in a longer session. This, with almost any other deviation from former practice, can only be made by the mutual consent of both universities, which from various circumstances, is not always to be expected. In this case too, such an alteration might be unfavourably received even by the public, who have been long accustomed to the present period; especially from its occasioning less expence to the parents, and being better suited to the low state of many of the bursaries.

The best and most natural remedy for these, or other imperfections in the present state of both universities, would perhaps be found, in bringing about that union of them, which has been so frequently attempted. By such means, every deficiency in the number of professorships might be amply supplied, and a complete seminary of education in every useful science, at once established, for the benefit of all the northern parts of Scotland. The united number of students would by no means exceed those in various other colleges, while the very low rate of board and lodging would enable many young men to prosecute the study of law or medicine, who cannot afford the expence to be incurred, by attending some of our other universities.

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No. III.

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CHARTER OF CONFIRMATION

GRANTED BY

KING CHARLES THE FIRST,

TO

*THE BURGH OF ABERDEEN,*

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1638.

**C**HARLES, by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith; to all good men of the whole earth, whether clergy or laicks, greeting: **KNOW YE**, That we (being many years past our full and advanced age, and having thereafter, and beyond the same, made both our special and general revocation in parliament), considering that our illustrious ancestors, of immortal memory, erected the burgh of **ABERDEEN** (one of the most ancient and illustrious burghs in all our kingdom of Scotland), into a free and royal burgh, **AND GAVE AND GRANTED** to the provost, baillies, counsellours, burgesses and community thereof, and to their successors, **THE SAME BURGH**, with severall lands, heritages, tenements, houses, buildings, milnes, fishings, privileges, liberties and immunities, pertaining and belonging thereto, by valid infestments, rights, and securities, made and granted thereupon to them and their predecessors, as the same at more length  
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purport:.

purport: ACCORDING WHEREUNTO, the said provost, baillies, counsellors, burgesses, and community of our said burgh, and their predecessors, HOLD, and have HOLDEN, the foresaid burgh, lands, milnes, fishings, and others belonging thereto, liberties and privileges of the same in all time bygone: From whence, and from the erection of the said burgh into a free and royal burgh, and endowing the same with the liberties and privileges aforesaid; by the virtue, industry, and diligence of the worthy inhabitants thereof, endowed with virtue, the said burgh is become a populous city, famous for humanity and renown, and much extolled above all other burghs and cities whatsoever in the northern part of our said kingdom; and which affords and supplies abundantly towards the furnishing of lodging and entertainment for all our subjects at their yearly and termly meetings, and other councils and conventions, as well publick as private, which are holden there: and which is well able to defend (as in a sanctuary) our oppressed subjects, when they resort thither out of the northern and mountainous places, lying towards the said burgh: - So that, by the civility, good government, and diligence of the magistrates of the said burgh, the same hath become most flourishing, to the very great advantage of the inhabitants, and our other subjects thereabout, whose children have plentiful education in letters, arts, and callings of all kind. WE THEREFORE, being rather solicitous that the said burgh should daily flourish, and that the rents, liberties, and securities made thereto by our predecessors, should be amplified and extended, than that they should be diminished

minished any manner of way : with the special advice and consent of our beloved and most faithful cousin and counsellour, *John*, earl of Traquair, lord Linton and Caberston, our principal threasaurer, comptroller, and collector of our kingdom of Scotland, and threasaurer of our new augmentations ; as also, of our faithful counsellour, Sir James Carmichael, of that ilk, knight-baronet, our depute in these offices ; and of the rest of the lords and others our commissioners of our exchequer of that our kingdom—to have ratified, approved, and by this our present charter, confirmed : And by the tenor hereof, we ratifie and approve, and for us and our successors for ever, CONFIRM a CHARTER made, given, and granted, by our unquibie dearest father, *James*, by the grace of God, king of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, of immortal memory, with consent of his principal treasurer, treasurer-depute, and of the rest of the lords of his secret council, his commissioners for the time, under his great seal, dated at *Falkland*, the seventeenth day of July, one thousand six hundred and seventeen ; whereby our said dearest father, with advice and consent foresaid, for the causes therein contained, not only ratified, approved, and confirmed, all and sundry charters, infestments, precepts, and instruments of seasine, confirmations, acts, sentences, decreets, gifts, exemptions, rights, titles, securities, letters, writes, evidents, grants, liberties, advantages, immunities, and privileges therein mentioned, made, granted, or confirmed, by our said dearest father, and his most illustrious predecessors, kings and queens of Scotland, or their gover-

nours, regents, or lords of session for the time, to our said burgh of Aberdeen, the provost, baillies, aldermen, deans of guild, treasurers, counsellours, burgesses and community thereof; and to the churches, ministers, and hospitals of the same, and to their successors, of whatsoever form or forms, content or contents, date or dates, respectively, the same be of. **AND SPECIALLY**, without prejudice of the generality foresaid, the particular charters, infestments, decreets, donations, exemptions, acts, writes, evidents, and others, specially and particularly mentioned in the said charter, the grants, donations, privileges, liberties, and immunities respectively therein contained; with all and sundry other charters, infestments, grants, gifts, privileges, immunities, rights, acts of parliament, and general conventions; sentences and decreets of privy-council, given and granted by our said umquhile dearest father, and his most illustrious progenitors, or by any other person or persons, to, and in favours of, the provost, aldermen, baillies, counsellours, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen for the time, and their predecessors and successors whatsoever, concerning the erection of our said burgh into a free royal burgh, with all rights, titles, and privileges thereto belonging, and incumbent by the laws and custom of our said kingdom of Scotland, and with all lands, tenements, forrests, woods, muirs, marishes, commonities, waters, salmon fishings, milnes, astrict multures, castles, meadows, lochs, hills, greens, forts, blockhouses, anchorages, bell-customs, and other customs; weights, iron-weights, measures, and other profits, casualties and duties



duties whatsoever, which formerly belonged to our said burgh of Aberdeen, and which they or their predecessors, or their authors, possessed or used in any time bygone. BUT ALSO, our said unquhile dearest father, with consent foresaid, of new gave, granted, erected, and disposed, to the saids provost, baillies, counsellours, burgesses and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors for ever, all and hailt the said burgh of Aberdeen, with the precinct, walls, fousies, ports, ways, streets, passages, and all and sundry houses, biggings, yairds, tenements, crofts, acres, and roods of lands, within the territory of our said burgh. AS ALSO, all and sundry, the common lands belonging and pertaining to our said burgh; with the whole muirs, marishes, meadows, parts, pendicles, and pertinents, of old called the *Forrest of Stocket*, with the wood thereof within the limits, marches, and bounds thereof, as the same were then occupied and possessed by the said provost, baillies, counsellours, and community, and were in use to be yearly rode and perambulate. All and whole the lands of *Rabistaw*; all and whole the lands of *Cruives*, with the tofts, crofts, houses, biggings, parts, pendicles, and pertinents of the same. All and whole the waters of *Dee* and *Don*, and salmon-fishings thereof, within and thorow the whole bounds, parts, and marches thereof, as the same were then occupied and possessed by the said provost and baillies, counsellours and community, and their tenants and servants, and particularly the salmon fishings upon the saids rivers of *Dee* and *Don*, specially and particularly mentioned and expressed in the said charter, within the bounds, marches, and

limits, and possessed in manner specified in the same charter. Together with all and sundry *sheills* and *inches* within and upon the saids waters of Dee and Don, and with privilege and liberty of building sheills, drawing, spreading, and drying nets, upon both sides of the saids waters respectively, as our said burgh, and the provost, baillies, counsellours and community thereof, and their predecessors, possessors, and occupiers of the said fishings, were formerly in use and possession of. AS ALSO, with privilege and liberty of having and holding boats and ferry-boats, one or more, upon the said waters of Dee and Don, and in whatsoever places and parts thereof, for transporting our lieges and subjects, and their goods and beasts, where the said provost, baillies, and counsellours of our said burgh shall appoint and think fit; with all duties, fees, and advantages belonging to, and incumbent upon the saids boats. All and sundry the common milnes of the said burgh, to wit, the two milnes within our said burgh, called the *Upper* and *Nether Milnes*; other two milnes without our said burgh, called the *Justice Milnes*; and two other milnes lying within the freedom of our said burgh—one of them called the *New Milne*, upon Bucksburn; and the other called the *New Milne* upon the Denburn; and the *Windmillne* at the Gallowgate-head of our said burgh; with the multures and sequels of the said milnes, of all grain growing upon all and sundry the crofts, acres, and lands of the community of our said burgh, and within the freedom and territory thereof, and of all grain pertaining and belonging to the burgesses and inhabitants

tants of our said burgh, tholing fire and water within the same. All and whole the *Castle-hill*, *Green Meadow*, and suburb called *Foottie*, with the chapel thereof; and all the boats and fishings of white fishes belonging thereto; and with the harbour for ships, port, blockhouse, and shore of the said burgh; aqueducts and passages thereof; liberties and privileges of the same, specially mentioned in the said charter: together with all and sundry the bell customs, and other customs and tolls of our said burgh, used and wont; with weights and tron-weights of our said burgh; fees and duties belonging thereto; and with all other weights and measures, liberties, privileges, and immunities belonging to our said burgh. AND SPECIALLY, certain liberties, privileges, and immunities, mentioned in the said charter, concerning our said burgh, and the government thereof, by which charter above-mentioned, all and sundry annual rents; feu farms; yearly duties; altarages, lands, fishings, tenements, houses, crofts, and chaplainries, which of old pertained to the chapels of Saint Nicolas's parish church of Aberdeen, were also given, granted, and disposed to the saids provost, baillies, counsellours, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors; with all tenements, crofts, mansions, dail silver, and anniversarys whatsoever, which formerly belonged to any chaplainries and altarages whatever, in any church, chapel, or college, within the liberty of the said burgh of Aberdeen, founded by whatsoever person or patron, wherever the same lye within our said kingdom of Scotland, or were in use to be uplifted and received.

received in any time bygone. **AS ALSO**, all and hail the mansion-houses, buildings, yards, and church, which formerly pertained to the Franciscan friars of our said burgh. And suchlike the common loch of the same burgh, by all the bounds and parts thereof, and hills called *Woman-hill*, *Play-field*, *Saint Catharine's Hill*, *Heading-hill*, and *Gallow-hill*, with the fields and greens of the said burgh, called the *Lanks*, as the same ly in length and breadth betwixt the water mouth of the river Dee, and the water mouth of the river Don, with tenants; tenandries, and service of free tenants, of all and sundry the foresaid lands and fishings, with the parts, pendicles, and pertinents thereof; together also with all and sundry other liberties, immunities, rights, and privileges whatsoever, belonging and incumbent to our said burgh; and whereof the said provost, baillies, council and community of the said burgh, or their predecessors have been in possession in any time bygone: **AND LIKEWAYS** with as ample and great privileges and immunities as were granted to our boroughs of Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, or any other royal boroughs within our kingdom of Scotland, by our said unquhile dearest father, or his ancestors, at any time bygone, preceeding the day and date of the said charter. And united, annexed, and incorporated to and with our said burgh of Aberdeen, liberties and privileges thereof, all and sundry the foresaid lands, acres, crofts, common lands, milnes, multures, fishings, castle, loch, meadow, hills, green, bulwark, anchorages, tolls, bell-customs, weights and measures, tron-weights and measures, annual rents, mansion-houses, yairds and others, generally  
and

and particularly above expressed ; with the privilege of giving seaisine of the same, at the mercat-cross of our said burgh, to the provost, or any one of the bail-lies thereof : which seaisine shall stand, and is ordained to be sufficient to the saids provost, baillies, counsellours, and community of our said burgh, for all and whole our said burgh, and all and sundry lands, houses, biggings, and others specially and generally therein mentioned, in form and manner therein expressed : to be holden by the said provost, baillies, council, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors in fee, heritage, and free burgage for ever, as the said charter of the date foresaid in itself at more length purports ; with the precept of seaisine and instrument of seaisine following thereon, and with the act of dissolution made in parliament, holden at Edinburgh the twenty-eighth day of June, in the year one thousand six hundred and seventeen ; to which act the charter abovementioned, relates, and is thereupon founded and granted. AND SICKLIKE with all and sundry other charters, infestments, precepts, and instruments of seaisine, confirmations, acts, sentences, decreets, gifts, exemptions, rights, titles, securities, letters, writs, evidents, grants, liberties, advantages, immunities and privileges therein mentioned, made, granted, or confirmed, by our umquhile most noble predecessors, William, sometime king of Scotland ; Alexander the Second, sometime king ; Alexander the Third, sometime king ; Robert the First, sometime king ; David, his son, sometime king ; Robert the Second, sometime king ; Robert the Third, sometime

time king; James the First, sometime king; James the Second, sometime king; James the Third, sometime king; James the Fourth, sometime king; James the Fifth, sometime king; queen Mary, his daughter; and our said umquhile dearest father, king James the Sixth, of excellent memory; or by any of them, or by any others their predecessors, kings and queens of Scotland, or by their regents, gouverneurs, or lords of session for the time:—to our said burgh of Aberdeen, the provost, aldermen, baillies, deans of guild, treasurers, counsellours, burgesses and inhabitants of our said burgh, and to the churches, ministers, and hospitals of the same burgh, and to their successors, of whatsoever form or forms, content or contents, date or dates, the same may be of, of and upon the erection of our said burgh of Aberdeen into a free royal borough, with all rights, titles and privileges pertaining and incumbent thereto by the laws and practice of our said kingdom of Scotland, and with all houses, lands, tenements, forests, woods, muirs, marishes, commonities, waters, salmon-fishings, milnes, astrict multures, castles, meadows, lochs, hills, greens, bulwarks, anchorages, small customs, bell-customs, and other customs, weights and measures, profits, casualties, and duties whatsoever, which formerly pertained to our said burgh, and which were possessed and used by the said provost, baillies, council and community, or their predecessors or authors in any time bygone. And we WILL and GRANT, and for us and our successors, with advice and consent foresaid, DECERN and ORDAIN, that the said generality shall noways derogate from the speciality, nor the speciality

speciality from the generality : AND THAT this our present confirmation and ratification of the premises is and shall be in all time coming, of as great value, strength, efficacy, and effect, in all respects, to our said burgh of Aberdeen, and to the provost, bailies, counsellours, and community of the same, and to their successors, as if the said charter and precept of resaine, with the act of dissolution above mentioned ; and all and sundry other charters, infestments, dispositions, grants, confirmations, rights, titles and securities, decreets, exemptions, writes, acts, evidents, gifts, liberties, advantages, immunities, privileges, and others particularly and generally therein mentioned—were at length, word by word, insert in this our present charter (notwithstanding, by reason of the multitude, number, length, and prolixity thereof, the same be noways insert in this present charter), whereanent we, for us and our successors, have dispensed, and by the tenor of this present charter, dispense for ever. MOREOVER, (without hurt, prejudice, or derogation to the foresaid former charters, infestments, rights, decreets, acts, titles, liberties, privileges, and others particularly and generally above expressed, and in farther corroboration thereof, accumulating rights upon rights,) we, for the good, faithfull, and acceptable service done and performed to us and our most noble progenitors by the saids provost, bailies, council and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their predecessors. And that hereafter they may the better continue in the said service, have of new given, granted, erected, disposed, and by this our present charter confirmed :  
And

And by the tenor hereof, with advice and consent foresaid, give, grant, erect, dispoñe, and by this our present charter, confirm, to our beloved and faithful servants, the provost, baillies, counsellours, burgesses and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and to their successors, all and whole our said burgh of Aberdeen, with the precinct, walls, foussies, ports, ways, streets, passages, and all and sundry houses, biggings, yairds, tenements, crofts, acres, and lands, within the territory and liberty of our said burgh. **AND LIKEWAYS,** all and sundry the foresaid common lands, belonging and pertaining to our said burgh, with all muirs, marishes, meadows, parts, pendicles, and pertinents, of old called the Forrest of Stocket, with the wood thereof, within the limits, marches, and bounds thereof, as the same are at present possessed and occupied, and are yearly rode, and in use to be perambulate by the said provost, baillies, council, and community. All and whole the foresaid lands of Rubislaw. All and whole the foresaid lands of Cruives, with the tofts, crofts, houses, biggings, parts, pendicles, and pertinents of the same. All and whole the foresaid waters of Dee and Don, with the salmon-fishings thereof, within and thorow the whole bounds, parts, and limits thereof, as the same at present are possessed and occupied by the said provost, baillies, council, and community, and their tenants and servants. **AND SPECIALLY,** the foresaid salmon-fishings upon the said water of Dee, called the *Raik, Stellis, Midchingle, Pot, and Foords*, upon both sides of the said water: And as the said fishings are distinguished, and distinctly known one from



from another; and as the same ly and are bounded from the mouth of the river, bar, and water-mouth of our said burgh of Aberdeen, to the bridge water at the bridge of Dee, of old pertaining and belonging to William Forbes of Barns; as also, the salmon-fishing upon the water of Don, called the *King's Cail*, of the foresaid water of Don, as well above as below the bridge thereof, with all and sundry the salmon-fishings of the Cruives, as the said fishings and cruives respectively are bounded, and ly from the watermouth of the said river of Don, to the burn called the *Cruiveburn*; with all and sundry other salmon-fishings, and other fishings whatsoever, upon the saids waters of Dee and Don, and thorow all the bounds and limits thereof, respectively above expressed, pertaining and incumbent to our said burgh; and as they and their predecessors were in use to possess the same. AND with all other fishings, as well of salmon as of white fishes in the salt water, or sea, betwixt the mouths of the said rivers of Dee and Don, and beside the mouths of the saids rivers upon both sides thereof. AS ALSO, with all and sundry inches and sheills within, and upon the said waters of Dee and Don, and with liberty and privilege of building sheills and sheillings, and of drawing, spreading, and drying nets upon both sides of the saids waters, as well upon our highways, as upon other most commodious places and parts near the said waters, as our said burgh, and their predecessors, possessors, and occupiers of the saids fishings formerly possessed and enjoyed the same. AS ALSO, with liberty and privilege of having boats and ferry-boats,

one or more, upon the saids waters of Dee and Don, at the watermouths of Dee and Don, where they have proper fishings, for transporting our lieges and subjects, and their goods and beasts, as they shall see fit, with all duties, fees, and advantages, belonging and incumbent to the saids ferry-boats. All and sundry the foresaid common milnes of our said burgh of Aberdeen, to wit, the foresaid two milnes within the said burgh, called the Upper and Nether Milnes; other two milnes without our said burgh, called the Justice Milnes; and other two milnes lying within the liberty of our said burgh—one thereof called the Newmilne upon the burn of Bucksburn—and the other, called the Newmilne upon the Denburn; with the said windmilne at the Gallowgate-head of our said burgh: AS ALSO, all and hail the two sea milnes, called *Shoar* or *Sea Milnes*, newly built and erected by the saids provost, baillies, council and community of our said burgh, after the date of their last infestment above written, ratified, and approved, by virtue of this our present charter, with privilege and liberty to them of building more milnes at their pleasure; and with the multures and sequels of the said milnes, and of all grain growing upon all and sundry the crofts, acres, and common lands of our said burgh, and within the territory and liberty thereof, and of all grain pertaining and belonging to the burgesses and inhabitants of the same burgh, or imported and brought in, or to be imported and brought in by them, or any other persons, tholing fire and water within the same. All and hail the said  
Castle-

Castle-hill, Green Meadow, and suburb called Foottie, with the chapel thereof, and whole boats and white fishings belonging thereto ; and with the foresaid bullwark, harbour, and shoar of Aberdeen, and milnedams and passages thereof ; and with liberty and privilege of burdening and discharging, loading and loosing ships, boats, and other vessels whatsoever, in the saids waters of Dee and Don, upon both sides thereof, in whatever places and parts, and as oft as it shall seem needful to the saids provost, baillies, council and community. AND SICKLIKE of uplifting and receiving all small customs, anchorages, shoar-silver, and other duties, as freely in all respects as our said burgh of Edinburgh, and its collectors, receive and uplift at the barbour and shoar of Leith, and as freely as the same are uplifted and received by any other free royal burgh, at whatsoever harbour or shoar within our said kingdom of Scotland : AND SPECIALLY, with power of uplifting and receiving, in all time coming, the sum of three shilling, usual money of our said kingdom of Scotland, out of every tun of goods exported and imported, in whatsoever ship, boat, or other vessel, within the said port and harbour of Aberdeen, to be applied for repairing, building, and upholding of the said bullwark, as the said provost, baillies, council and community, and their collectors, have enjoyed and possessed the same for these many years bygone. AS ALSO, all and whole the foresaid customs, called the Bell Customs of our said burgh, the small customs, tolls, and other customs, used and wont ; with the weights and tron-weights of our said burgh ; fees and

duties belonging to the same ; and with all other weights and measures, liberties, privileges, and immunities anyways pertaining and belonging to the said burgh. AS ALSO, with free power of holding courts within our said burgh, and territory and liberty thereof, for administration of justice, and punishing delinquents and transgressors, according to the quality of their crimes, conform to the laws and practice of our kingdom of Scotland ; and the issues, fines, and escheats of the said courts, with bloodwits as oft as they fall out, as well within our said burgh, liberty and territory thereof, as within the port and harbour and floodmark of the said burgh, and within the said waters of Dee and Don, and parts of the same, where the foresaid fishings are disposed by virtue of our present charter ; and of applying the said issues, escheats, fines, and bloodwits, to the utility and advantage of our said burgh. AS ALSO, with special power, privilege, and liberty, to the said provost, baillies, counsellours, and burgesses of guild of our said burgh, and their successors for ever, of using, frequenting, and exercising trade, merchandice, and commerce, and of buying and selling, in great and small wine, wax, wade, skins, hides, and all other kinds of merchandice and goods, as well of our said kingdom of Scotland, as of any foreign nation whatsoever, not only within our said burgh, territory and liberty of the same ; but also openly, within, and thorrow the whole bounds and limits of our sheriffdom of Aberdeen, as well within regality as royalty. AND SICKLIKE of holding and having forever, within the said burgh and liberty thereof,

thereof, a *Merchant Guildrie*, with *Guild Courts*, counsel-  
lours, members, and jurisdictions thereof, proper and  
necessary; and of uplifting, and receiving the issues  
and escheats of the saids courts, sicklike, and as freely  
in all respects, and by all things, as, in the like cases,  
is granted by us, or our predecessors, to any other free  
royal burgh, within our kingdom of Scotland, and with  
all and sundry other liberties and immunities belong-  
ing, or that can justly appertain to the saids tradings,  
commerce, merchandices, guild-courts, and burse (or  
merchant meeting) by the laws thereof. AND SICK-  
LIKE of holding, having, using, exercising, and en-  
joying within our said burgh, two publick weekly  
fairs or mercats, to wit, upon Wednesday and Satur-  
day, according to the custom used and wont; with  
four yearly free fairs, beginuing, holding, and conti-  
nuing within the said burgh; whereof the first, at the  
feast of Whitsunday: the second, at the feast of the  
Holy Trinity: the third, at the feast of Saint Michael:  
and the fourth and last, at the feast of Saint Nicolas;  
every one of which fairs shall endure for the space of  
eight days. AS ALSO, with liberty and power of  
building and erecting more milnes, as well windmilnes  
as corn and waulk milnes, within our said burgh, li-  
berty and territory thereof, and of letting and setting  
parts of the said common lands of Forrest of Stocket,  
which are not already sett and lett, for the profit and  
advantage of our said burgh, by long tacks or infest-  
ment of feu-farm, for payment of the feu duties.  
Commanding, charging, and prohibiting, all persons,

as well in regality as royalty (not being burgesses of guild of our said burgh of Aberdeen), That they do not presume to use or exercise traffick, commerce, or merchandice, or any privilege or point thereof, competent to a free royal burgh, within the liberty and bounds of our said burgh and sherifffdom above-written, under the pain of incarcerating their persons, and forfeiting and escheating their goods, and merchandises, wherever they can be apprehended. **MOREOVER WE**, with advice and consent foresaid, have given and granted, and, by the tenor of this our present charter, for us and our successors, give and grant our full power, commission and authority, to the said provost, baillies, and counsellours of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors, of making and publishing acts, statutes and ordinances, for the common good and profit of the said burgh, and the defence of the privileges and liberties of the same, to be observed by all the burgesses and inhabitants of our said burgh, and by all other persons repairing to and frequenting the same, under such penalties as they shall think fit. **AS ALSO**, of causing the saids acts, statutes and ordinances, to be duly observed, with all the acts of parliament, acts of general convention, and privy-council, with the constitutions of the burghs, and all their own proper acts made, or to be made, in favour of the liberties thereof, and to prosecute and put the same to final execution, within the liberty and territory of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and sherifffdom thereof, above set down. **AND LIKEWAYS**, with  
special

special power to the said provost, baillies, and counsellours, of calling, prosecuting, arresting, and incarcerating, the persons delinquents, and contravening the saids privileges, acts, statutes, decrests, and sentences, and of intromitting with their goods, and escheating the same; which goods and issues so to be escheated, we, for us and our successors, with advice and consent foresaid, GIVE and GRANT to the common use of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and for support of the common affairs and works thereof, with all issues and fines of the courts, wherein the saids transgressors shall happen to fall, and incur the same. AND LIKEWAYS, we, with advice and consent foresaid, have given, granted, and disposed, and by the tenor of our present charter, give, grant, and dispone, to the saids provost, baillies, counsellours, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and to their successors, all and sundry lands, houses, tenements, yairds, templar tenements, with all the pertinents of the same, lying within the precinct of our said burgh of Aberdeen, which formerly pertained to any abbacies, priories, preceptories, monasterys, chaplainrys, prebendaries, altarages, and other benefices; together with the whole feu-farms; and other duties of the same in all time coming, to remain with and belong to our said burgh, as a part thereof; with power to the saids provost, baillies, and counsellours, and their successors, as our baillies in that part, of entering and receiving the heritable vassalls and tenants of the same, upon resignation, or by service and retour, or by delivery of hesp and staple,

staple, sicklike and in the same manner as any others of our royal burghs of our said kingdom of Scotland, used to enter and receive the inhabitants, heritable proprietors and possessors of any lands and tenements whatever, within the territories and precincts of the same. AND LIKEWAYS we have given, granted, and disposed, and by the tenor of our present charter, with advice and consent foresaid, we give, grant, and dispone, to the said provost, baillies, counsellours, and community, and to their successors, all annual rents, feu-farms, and yearly duties, due, used and wont to be paid forth of the saids houses, yairds, templar tenements, and other tenements aforesaid ; with power of intromitting therewith, and disposing thereupon, of all years and terms to come, and of applying the same to the common good of our said burgh. AS ALSO, we have given, granted, and disposed, and by the tenor of our present charter, we, with advice and consent foresaid, give, grant, and dispone, to the said provost, baillies, counsellours and community, and to their successors, all and sundry chaplainries, altarages, and annual rents, formerly pertaining and belonging to the saids chaplainries of the foresaid parish church of Aberdeen, called *Saint Nicolas*, and with all anniversaries and daill-silver whatsoever, which formerly pertained to any chaplainries, prebendaries, and altarages, in whatsoever other church, chapel, or college, within the liberty of our said burgh of Aberdeen, founded by whatever person or persons, wherever they lie within our said kingdom, or that in any  
time



time bygone used to be received or uplifted. And with all and hail the foresaid mansion-place, houses, biggings, yairds and church which formerly pertained to the Franciscan friars of our said burgh, with all the duties and rents thereof, and pertaining to the premises, of all years and terms to come. And with the common loch of our said burgh, within and thorow all the bounds and parts thereof. And with the foresaid hills, called Woman-hill, Playfields, Saint Katharine's Hill, Heading-hill, and Gallowhill, with the greens and fields called the Links, of our said burgh, as the same lye in length and breadth within the water-mouth of Dee to the water-mouth of the river Don, with tenants, tenandries, and service of free tenants, of all and sundry the foresaid lands and fishings, with the parts, pendicles, and pertinents of the same; and with all and sundry other liberties, immunities, rights and privileges whatsoever, belonging and incumbent to the said burgh, and whereof the said provost, bailies, council and community of the same, and their predecessors, have been in use and possession at any time bygone. AS ALSO, with as full and great privileges and immunities as are given, granted, and disposed by us and our predecessors, to our said burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, or any other royal burghs within our kingdom of Scotland, at any time bygone, preceding the day and date of our present charter: AND WITH all right, title, interest, claim of right, property and possession whatsoever, which we, our predecessors or successors had, have, or any ways may have, claim or pretend to have, any manner

ner of way in time coming, in and to our said burgh of Aberdeen, lands, acres, crofts, common lands, milnes, multures, fishings, castle, loch, meadow, hills, greens, bullwarks, anchorages, tolls, customs, bell-customs, weights, tron-weights, measures, annual rents, manor place, houses, yairds, and charches, which of old pertained to the said Franciscan friars and others, particularly and generally above-recited, or to any part, pendicle, or portion of the same, mailla, farms, casualties, profits and duties of the same, of whatsoever years or terms bygone, or to come; for whatsoever deeds, causes, or occasions bygone, preceeding the day and date of our present charter, renouncing, quite-claiming, and for ever overgiving the same; with all action, instance, and execution, competent, or that can be competent to us and our successors thereanent, to the saids provost, baillies, counsellours, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors now and for ever, with the paction of not requiring, and with the supplying of all defects, objections, and imperfections whatsoever, as well not named as named, bygone, present, and to come, which we will have to be as expressed in this our present charter; wherewith we, for us and our successors, have dispensed, and by the tenor of this our present charter, dispense for ever. MOREOVER, we have ratified, approved, and by this our present charter, have confirmed, and by the tenor hereof we ratifie, approve, and for us and our successors for ever, confirm, an act and statute of our said burgh, made by the said provost, baillies, council, and community thereof, whereby it is statute and ordained,

ordained, that no ground malt shall be brought or presented to the mercat of our said burgh, nor sold within the same, privately nor publicly ; which act and statute is dated the eleventh day of January, in the year one thousand six hundred and twenty-eight. **AND WE**, perfectly understanding that the said act and statute not only agrees with the acts and statutes of all the royal burghs of our said kingdom, but also is fit and necessary for the good and advantage of our said burgh, therefore **WILL and ORDAIN**, that no ground malt shall be brought into, nor sold within the said burgh, privately or publickly, by whatsoever person or persons, within the liberty of the said burgh, or by extraneers, under the pain of confiscation of all kind of ground malt which shall be brought in by any person or persons whatever, against the tenor of the foresaid act and statute, and our ordinance abovementioned, within the said burgh ; with power to the saids provost and baillies to confiscate the said malt, and apply the same to their own use. And considering that our said umquhile dearest father, of blessed memory, by his infestment above specified, ratified and disposed to our said burgh of Aberdeen, all other liberties, rights, and privileges, as amply and fully as to our saids burghs of Edinburgh and Perth, who are sheriffs, coroners, and justices of peace within themselves, and that there is great necessity that our said burgh of Aberdeen should have, possess, and enjoy the saids privileges, and that especially for the reasons and causes following, viz. That our said burgh of Aberdeen hath grown, and is become, a plentiful and populous burgh

burgh and city, wherein there is great and daily merchandice and interchange of trade, and great course of our lieges and subjects, as well noblemen and gentlemen and other inhabitants in the north parts of our said kingdom, in all their meetings, and other great and weighty affairs, as of other common people, repairing to the fairs, mercats, and merchandicing within our said burgh, and at the port and harbour thereof. AND ESPECIALLY, that our said burgh is situate near the hills and mountains, wherein there are many rebels, and disaffected and broken men, who frequent the said burgh, and who, by their fighting and striving therein, disturb the peace thereof, and all the lawful meetings, conventions, and merchandisings of our lieges and subjects within the same: AND THAT the sheriffs of our said shire of Aberdeen, within the bounds whereof our said burgh lyes, are yearly chosen out of the barons and country gentlemen, who, with their deputes, dwell in the country, and are not present at all times for the execution of their offices incumbent upon them in that part, conform to law, whereby our said burgh, the inhabitants thereof, and others our lieges residing therein, are mightily disturbed and prejudiced. THEREFORE, and for remeed hereof, and for many good offices, true and thankfull services done and performed to us, and our said umquhile dearest father of excellent memory, and to our other most noble progenitors, in times by-gone, by the said provost and baillies of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their predecessors, and for divers other great respects, good causes, and considerations moving

moving us, from our certain knowledge, and our own motive will, with advice and consent foresaid, we have given, granted, and disposed, and by the tenor of our present charter, GIVE, GRANT, and DISPONE, to the said provost, baillics, counsellours, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and to their successors, provost, baillics, counsellours, and community thereof, for ever, the offices of *Sheriff, Coroner, and Justice of Peace*, within our said burgh of Aberdeen, and whole bounds of the common lands, acres, crofts, milnes, waters, fishings, hills, greens, ports, harbours, ways, streets, passages, and others thereto belonging, lying within the precinct and territory of our said burgh, with all and sundry liberties, privileges, fees, casualties, duties, immunities and advantages, belonging to, and incumbent upon, the saids offices of sheriff, coroner, and justice of peace, by the law and custom of our kingdom. And we have made, created, constituted, and ordained, and by the tenor of our present charter, with advice and consent foresaid, make, create, constitute, and ordain the provost of our said burgh of Aberdeen, chosen, and to be chosen for ever, *Sheriff and Coroner-principal*; and the baillics of our said burgh, chosen, and to be chosen yearly, *Sheriffs and Coroners-depute*, conjunctly and severally under him; and the saids provost and baillics of our said burgh, chosen, and to be chosen yearly, conjunctly and severally, *Justices of the Peace* within the said burgh, common lands of the same, and others above-written, pertaining and belonging thereto, for ever; with full and free power to them and their deutes,

conjunctly and severally, of affixing, affirming, beginning, and holding, and, if need be, of continuing court and courts, as well criminal as civil, as oft as they shall think fit, within the said burgh, common lands, milnes, fishings, muirs, ways, streets, passages, and others above expressed, or upon any part of the bounds aforesaid, as well against their neighbour burgesses and inhabitants of the said bounds, as against other persons resorting to and frequenting our said burgh of Aberdeen, and territory thereof, who shall be attached for any cause, crime or offence, criminal or civil, done and committed by them within our said burgh, bounds, and territory thereof, or any part of the same; and of exercising and using the said office of sheriff for any other actions, causes, offences, crime or crimes, that may happen against all persons that shall be taken or attached within our said burgh of Aberdeen, common lands, milnes, fishings, harbour, shoar, ways, streets, passages, and others particularly above recited, belonging thereto; and of administering justice, calling and convicting the suits of the said sheriff-courts; amerciating the absents, and of punishing transgressors, delinquents, and offenders; com-burgesses and inhabitants, and other transgressors and criminals, to the death, or by banishment, whipping, burning upon the hand or cheek, or any other punishment used in any other royal burgh, according to the quality of their crimes, and agreeable to the laws of our said kingdom; and of making, creating, and constituting, necessary members and administrators of the said sheriff-courts, to be chosen and appointed out  
of

of the burghessess of our said burgh allenarly, and out of no others without the burgh ; and of using and exercising the said office of sheriff within our said burgh of Aberdeen, and bounds thereof aforesaid, sicklike and as freely in all respects as any other sheriff within any other burgh of our said kingdom, exercees the said office of sheriff within his own burgh. AND SICKLIKE with power to the said provost and bailies of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors, provosts and baillies of the same, of using and exercising the said offices of coroner and justice of peace within the said burgh, and whole lands, possessions, waters, port, harbour, and other parts thereof, above-written, and whole bounds, liberties, and territory thereof ; with all liberties, privileges, immunities, and advantages competent thereto, sicklike, and as freely as any other coroners and justices of peace use and exerce such offices of coroner and justice of peace in any other sheriffdom, burgh, and jurisdiction within our said kingdom. AND SICKLIKE we, with advice and consent foresaid, for the onerous causes above-written, and for divers other great respects, good causes, and considerations, moving us, from our certain knowledge and proper motive will, have given and granted, and, by the tenor of our present charter, we GIVE and GRANT full power, warrant, and liberty, to the said provost, bailies, and counsellours of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and to their successors, by themselves, or by their dean of guild, or any other persons whom they shall yearly nominate and appoint, of *visiting, enquiring, searching into, and trying the weights,*

*metts*, and *measures* above-specified, within the bounds of our said burgh, and of our whole sheriffdom of Aberdeen, and within all the common fairs and mercats, as well to burgh as landward, within the bounds of the said burgh, and our sheriffdom of Aberdeen. And we have made and constituted, and, by the tenor of our present charter, with advice and consent foresaid, make and constitute, the said provost, bailies, and council of our said burgh, and their successors, visitors, inspectors, searchers, and tryers of the measures and others aforesaid, within the bounds of the said burgh, and our sheriffdom of Aberdeen, giving, granting, and committing to them, and to their successors aforesaid, full power and privilege of making and sealing all vessels, measures, and weights, great and small, underwritten ; that is to say, to mark and stamp all firlots, pecks, pound-weights, stone-weights, elvands, quart, pint, choppin, and mutchkin stoups, and all others of that sort, with an iron or brass stamp and seal, being the impression of the *Lyon and Crown*, according to the sundry measures and standards prescribed and appointed by act of our parliament, and of uplifting all fees and duties of and for the same. AS ALSO, with consent foresaid, we have ratified, approved, and by this our present charter, confirmed, and, by the tenor of our present charter, for us and our successors, ratifie, approve, and for ever confirm, an act of privy-council, made at Holyrood-house the fifteenth day of July, in the year one thousand six hundred and nineteen, whereby the lords of our secret council concluded and ordained, that there should be  
only



only one constant measure for salmon, thorow and over our whole kingdom of Scotland, and that according to the ancient measure, commonly called the *Old Gauge and Standard of Aberdeen*, containing ten gallons, with which measure all our lieges and subjects ought to receive and deliver their salmon in all time coming, in form and manner, and under the penalties contained in the said act of our council, as the said act, of the date foresaid, at more length purports, in all and sundry its heads, points, clauses, articles, circumstances, and conditions, therein contained, according to the form and tenor thereof, in all points. And we will and grant, and for us and our successors for ever, decern and ordain, that this present ratification of the foresaid acts of council, shall be of as great value, strength, force, and effect, as if the said act of our privy-council were at length insert in this our present charter; wherewith we, for us and our successors, have dispensed, and by the tenor of our present charter, dispense for ever. AS ALSO, with consent foresaid, we have made, constituted, and ordained, and, by the tenor of our present charter, make, constitute, and ordain, the said provost, baillies, and council of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors for ever, keepers of the said measure, gauge, and standard of Aberdeen, appointed for measuring and gauging, receiving and delivering salmon within our said kingdom, and stampers and gaugers of the said measures, barrells, and salmon-vessels; and, by the tenor of our present charter, we give and dispoine to the said provost, baillies, and counsellours of our said burgh of

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Aberdeen,

Aberdeen, and to their successors, all fees, duties, and advantages, used and wont, of and for the keeping of the said measure, gauge, and standard, and stamping of the saids measures, barrells, and salmon-vessels. AS ALSO, with consent foresaid, for us and our successors, we give and grant full power and privilege to the said provost and baillies of our said burgh, and to their successors, of taking, apprehending, incarceration, and punishing all persons within the said burgh, using and carrying unlawful arms, and prohibited by the laws of our said kingdom, and constitutions of the burghs, to be carried, born, or used by any persons whatever, according to the tenor of a charter granted by the said umquhile Robert the First, to the burgeses and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen for the time, and a clause therein specified, made thereupon, as the saids provosts and baillies and their predecessors, formerly used and possessed the same. And because the old and new churches of Saint Nicolas, the church of the Franciscan friars, called the Colledge Church, Saint Katharine's Chapel, Saint Ninian's Chapel, upon the Castle-hill, Saint Clement's Chapel, called the church of Foottie, lye within our said burgh of Aberdeen, liberty and territory thereof; to which churches and chapels the said provost, baillies, council, and community of the said burgh, and their predecessors, have been in use to choose, present, nominate, and provide ministers and chaplains in all time bygone, when the same happened to vaik, and to pay them their stipends (they having no other stipends, or livings): THEREFORE, and for the causes above-written,

written, we, with consent foresaid, have ratified, approved, and, by this our present charter, confirmed, and by the tenor hereof ratifie, approve, and for us and our successors for ever, confirm the foresaid use, custom, and possession, which the said provost, baillies, council, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their predecessors had, in choosing, naming, presenting, and providing ministers and chaplains to the foresaid churches and chapels and chaplainries thereof, when they happen to vaik. And we will, grant, and for us and our successors for ever, decern and ordain, that the said provost, baillies, council, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors in all time to come, shall observe and exerce the foresaid privilege, use, and custom, and shall remain for the future, as in times bypast, in the right and possession of the same, and shall choose, present, nominate, and provide ministers, chaplains, and other persons, to serve the cure at the said churches and chapels for the future, as in times bygone, without any impediment, molestation, trouble, or contradiction. And we will and ordain, that the bishop of Aberdeen, and ordinary for the time, receive and admit the ministers and persons to be chosen, nominated, and presented by the saids provost, baillies, and council of our said burgh, in and to the churches and chapels, being fit and qualified for their service and function, and, if need be, give them institution and collation in due form, without any obstacle or impediment. MOREOVER, with consent foresaid, from our certain knowledge, and proper motive will, we have united, annexed,

annexed, and incorporated, and by the tenor of our present charter, for us and our successors, we unite, annex, create, and incorporate, in, to, and with our said burgh of Aberdeen, and the lands, milnes, mul-tures, fishings, anchorages, port, harbour, and other liberties and privileges thereof, aforesaid, granted to the said burgh ; all and whole the said offices of sheriff, coroner, and justice of peace within the bounds and limits aforesaid, and jurisdiction of the same, with the said escheats, fines, issues, and other liberties and privileges of the same aforesaid. AS ALSO, the said office of visiting, inspecting, searching, and trying the measures and weights abovewritten, within the bounds above-specified ; with the said privilege of keeping the foresaid measure, gauge and standard of the foresaid salmon-barrells and vessels, and of stamping and gau-ging the same : with all fees, privileges, advantages, and immunities, belonging to, and incumbent upon, the said office : together with the foresaid privilege of choosing, nominating, presenting, and providing the said ministers and chaplains to the churches and cha-pels aforesaid, and every one of them as oft as they shall happen to vaik for the future in manner above-written, into one free royal burgh, to be now, and in all time coming, called THE BURGH OF ABER-DEEN. And we will and grant, and for us and our successors, decern and ordain, that the said provost, baillies, dean of guild, threasaurer, counsellours, bur-gesses, and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and their successors in all time coming, shall freely and peaceably possess, hold and enjoy the same burgh,  
and

and all and sundry the foresaid lands, acres, crofts, common lands, multures, woods, fishings, waters, castle, meadow, loch, hills, greens, bulwarks, anchorages, tolls and customs, bell-customs, weights, tron-weights, measures, annual-rents, mansion-houses, yairds, ways, streets, passages, and others specially and generally above-mentioned; with all and sundry liberties, privileges, immunities, and advantages belonging and incumbent thereto; and with the foresaid offices of sheriff, coroner, and justice of peace, within the bounds and limits above-written, and jurisdictions of the same; and with the said escheats, issues, fines, and other liberties of the same, above-written. AS ALSO, the foresaid office of visiting, inspecting, searching, and trying the measures and weights above specified, within the bounds above-written. As also, the said privilege and liberty of keeping and observing the foresaid measure, gauge and standard of the said salmon-bärrells and vessels, and of stamping and gauging the same, with all the fees, privileges, advantages and immunities pertaining and belonging to the said office. And sicklike the foresaid privilege and liberty of presenting, nominating, choosing, and providing, ministers and chaplains to the said churches and chapels, and to every one of them, as often as they shall happen to vaik, for the future, in form and manner above-written, with all their pertinents (which for brevity's sake are not repeated in this our present charter), in fee, heritage, and a free royal burgh for ever. And we WILL and GRANT, and for us and our successors, DECERN and ORDAIN, that *one seusine*, once to be given,

given, by virtue of this our present infeftment, to the provost, and one of the baillies of the said burgh of Aberdeen, at the mercat-cross thereof, shall stand, and be a sufficient seaisine to the said provost, baillies, dean of guild, threasaurer, council, burgesses, and community of our said burgh, and to their successors for ever, for all and hail the foresaid burgh, and for all and sundry the foresaid lands, milnes, possessions, waters, fishings, offices, annexis, connexis, incorporations, and others particularly and generally above-recited, of old pertaining to the said burgh, and given and granted by virtue of our present charter, and united and annexed to the said burgh, as above set down; sicklike, and as freely in all respects, as if our said burgh, and others above-written, were lying together, and contiguous, and not in divers places and parts, and as if particular seaisines were taken at every part or place thereof, with all the solemnities requisite, and notwithstanding thereof. Whereanent we, for us and our successors, with advice and consent foresaid, have dispensed, and by the tenor hereof, dispense for ever; so that one seaisine now to be taken in manner above-written, shall stand, and be valid, lawful, and sufficient in itself, without any other seaisine thereof to be taken, or upon any part of the same for the future, to be holden, and to be had, all and hail our said burgh of Aberdeen, with all and sundry the foresaid lands, houses, biggings, yairds, tenements, port, bulwark, shoar, crofts, acres, roods, common lands, the lands of Rubislaw and Cruives, salmon-fishings upon the saids waters of Dee and Don, milnes, multures,

multures, castle, hills, meadows, suburb called Foottie, chapels, fish-boats, customs, bell-customs, toll-customs, small customs, weights, tron-weights, measures, lochs, greens, anchorages, annual-rents, mansions, offices of sheriff, coroner, and justice of peace, escheats and fines ; with the said office of visiting, inspecting, searching and trying the said measures and weights within the bounds above-specified, with the fees and duties of the same ; and with the said office of keeping and observing the foresaid measure, standard, and gauge of salmon-barrells and vessels, stamping and gauging of the same, with the fees and privileges thereof ; and with the power and privilege of choosing, nominating, and presenting ministers and chaplains to the saids churches and chapels, and for others particularly and generally above-written ; with all the liberties, privileges, and pertinents of the same, by the said provost, baillies, dean of guild, threasaurer, and council, burgesses and community of our said burgh of Aberdeen, and by their successors, of us and our successors, in a free royal burgh, fee, heritage, free burgage, free office of sheriff, free office of coroner, and free justice of peace, within the bounds aforesaid, for ever. By all their righteous meiths, ancient and divided, as the same lye in length and breadth, in houses, biggings, heights, plains, muirs, marishes, ways, gates, waters, stanks, rivers, meadows, pastures and pasturages, milnes, multures, and their sequels ; huntings, fowlings, fishings, peats, turfs, quarles, quarleheughs, cunnings, cunningairs, doves, dovecots, smiddys, maltbarns, breweries, and whins, brooms, woods, bushes

bushes and shrubs, trees, joists, stone-quarries, stone and lime, with courts and their issues, fines, herezelds, bloodwits (*et mulierum merchetis*), with common pasturage, free ish and entry, and with *pit and gallows*, sok, sak, thoill, theme, vert, wreck, waith, wair, vermison, infang thieff, outfang thieff, pit and gallows; and with all and sundry other liberties, advantages, profits, easements, and just pertinents thereof, whatsoever, as well not named as named, as well under the earth as above the earth, far and near, belonging, or that may belong to the foresaid lands, burgh, and others, respectively particularly above-written; with all and sundry the privileges and pertinents thereof whatsoever, above-mentioned, for the future; freely, quickly, fully, wholly, honourably, well and in peace, without any revocation, contradiction, impediment, or obstacle whatever. Paying therefore yearly the saids provost, baillies, dean of guild, threasaurer, council, burgesses, and community of Aberdeen, and their successors, to us and our successors, and our threasaurers and comptrollers in our names, the sum of two hundred and fourteen pound, six shilling, eight pennies, usual money of our said kingdom of Scotland, as the ancient duty and maill and augmentation thereof, for the burrow-maills of our said burgh, used and wont to be paid, and received and allocate in our exchequer by the auditors thereof yearly in times bypast, at the terms of payment used and wont, in name of burrow-maill, according to the tenor of the said last infestment of the same, specially above-mentioned. AS ALSO, for the said offices of sheriff, coroner, and justice of peace, and other



other jurisdictions above-specified, due and lawful administration of justice, in the same offices and jurisdictions in all time to come, together with burghage service used and wont, only for all other burden and exaction, which can or may be anyways justly exacted or required of the foresaid burgh, and others above-written, with the pertinents, by any whatsoever.—IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have commanded our great seal to be appended to this our present charter of confirmation. WITNESSES—the most reverend father in Christ, and our beloved counsellour, *John*, archbishop of Saint Andrews, and our chancellor; our beloved cousins and counsellours, *James*, marquis of Hamilton, earl of Arran and Cambridge, lord Aven and Innerdale, &c.; *Robert*, earl of Roxburgh, Lord Ker, of Cessford and Caverstoun, &c. keeper of our privy-seal; *William*, earl of Stirling, viscount of Canada; Lord *Alexander*, of Tillybodie, &c. our secretary; our beloved familiar counsellours, Sir John Hay, of Barro, clerk of our rolls, register, and council; John Hamilton, of Orbieston, our justice-clerk; and John Scot, of Scotstarvet, director of our chancery, knights,—AT OATLANDS, the ninth day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and thirty-eight, and the fourteenth year of our reign.

Sealed at Edinburgh the 10th of October, 1638, in absence of Andrew Hay (*sic subscribitur*), John Davidson.—Written to the great seal, nono October, 1638, (*sic subscribitur*), SCOTSTARVET.

At Aberdeen, the 16th day of May, 1656, produced by Mr. James Sandilands, town-clerk of the said burgh, and ane minute thereof taken and recorded in the books of exchequer, conform to the severall acts and proclamations made thereanent by me (*sic subscriptus*), W. PURVIS.

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FINIS.

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